A Historical Sketch
of
ST THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH
Seaforth Ontario
1855-1980

by
The Rev James R Broadfoot

[illegible]

[illegible] Gordon Wright

St. Thomas' Anglican church corner of James and John Streets, Sarnia, Ontario
Serving Sarnia and Community since 1837

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Here indeed we groan, and long to put on our heavenly dwelling, so that by putting it on we may not be found naked.

II Corinthians 5. 1-3

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

We do not know what deliberations were made, nor do the records show how the [illegible] the name "St Thomas" for the Anglican Church in [illegible]. Of this there is no question. The name was well chosen for this Parish Church.

St Thomas is mentioned in all of the four Gospels as being one of the disciples of Jesus. In the Gospel of St John, where his name is translated as "Didymus" (a Greek word meaning "twin"), he appears in three notable episodes. In the first instance (John 11:16), Thomas [illegible] the disciples to walk along [illegible] to Bethany [illegible] with him. In the second instance (John 14:5), Thomas engages in a discussion with Jesus by asking, "*Lord, we do not know where you are going, how can we know the way?*" Then lastly (John 20:25-28), he doubts the Resurrection of Jesus until he is able to touch the very wounds of the Risen Christ. At Christ's [illegible] appearance, he confesses his faith in the words "*My Lord, and my God*", [illegible] he was the first to explicitly [illegible] the Divinity of Jesus Christ. According to an early tradition [illegible] to Early Church Fathers, Eusebius and by others, Thomas was supposed to have evangelised the Parthians. By another tradition coming from the Nestorians, Thomas was supposed to have brought the Gospel of Jesus Christ to India, where he was martyred. The Syrian Christians to this day call themselves "Christians of St Thomas" and strongly defend the tradition that they were evangelised by the Apostle, who was in later years martyred and buried at Mylapore near Madras. The "Thomas Cross" [illegible] of either the [illegible] Century, with a [illegible] in the Church which marks the place where his body is said to be resting. In the Anglican Church St Thomas Day is a Feast Day, which is observed December 21 [illegible] each year. [illegible] to have been written by him, which are to be found in the Apocrypha.

OUR ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Bless us, O Lord, on this day of opportunity
and in this year of celebration and thanksgiving;

May our response to your calling today
be full and abundant, glad and free.

We give thanks to you for the founding members of
this Parish Church, of St Thomas', Stratford —
For their vision, dedication and the courage we
for their work of faith, labour of love.

And as those who have gone before us,
handed on the torch to carry into the future,
May we be aware of where the real needs of mankind lie.

Fashion our minds to discover your truth,
Strengthen our wills to do your work,
Purify our hearts that we may see your face
And fill us with fellowship in service and prayer.

That by your grace and mercy you may be known
to us and to our children
To our neighbours and to the world,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

PRELUDE

This brief historical sketch of St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Seaforth, is written to the Glory of God and a dedication to all those men and women who, in years past, had a vision of an Anglican Church in the community of Seaforth, and who, through much labour and hardship, have carved out of the wilderness the beautiful house of worship which we enjoy today.

In this year of 1980 we celebrate our 125th Anniversary of the founding of the Anglican Church in this community. It is then fitting, that we should record the names of those men and women who have built this Church, and record the events that have left us a legacy of which we can be proud. As these people of the past have given us the torch to carry into the future, so we move ahead with a renewed vision of what the Anglican Church means to us who live in this community.

The author is indebted to so many people for the details of this history of St. Thomas' Church. First and foremost, I am indebted to the late Mr. Richard C. Parke whose history of St. Thomas' Church as recorded in the Vestry Book was used as the basis for this historical account; to Mrs. Nancy Lavoie and Mrs. [illegible], whose invaluable assistance was not only necessary for this undertaking, but very much appreciated. Also I am grateful to Ken Lavoie for his help and supervision in reading the manuscript and to the many members of the congregation, who have offered comments and remarks as they remember many of the events of St. Thomas' Church which are recorded in this book.

Last but not least, I am forever grateful to my wife Marion who so painstakingly read and reread, typed and edited the manuscript prior to the printing of this book. Without patience and understanding it would not have been possible for me to write this history.

BACKGROUND

As I attempt to write the history of St. Thomas' Anglican Church in Seaforth, I often wonder if I had all the [illegible] material [illegible] St. Thomas' Church which has a chronological history of events. Even now, as I write, more and more documents and other related materials are being made available to me, but time doesn't allow me to continue to do further research so that a story of this time [illegible]. I have tried as nearly as possible thus to use the resources at my disposal to write a true and accurate account of the history of St. Thomas' Church. Therefore what I have written must be thought of as an imperfect sketch of St. Thomas' Church, and maybe one day someone will be able to take up the challenge and will be able to write a more detailed account.

Records are of the utmost importance and unless one knows or is able to read between the lines we are unable to fully write the history of St. Thomas' Church. From the yellowing and torn pages of Church records, from the local newspapers and other histories written of this area by such persons as Isabella Campbell and James Scott we are at best only able to get a glimpse of the chronological history of the life of St. Thomas' Church.

The members of St. Thomas' Church have so much for which to rejoice and to give thanks to God. Since the Church was originally founded and built many changes have taken place and many lovely things have been added. Memorials of one kind or another have been dedicated to the glory of God in memory of loved ones who have served the Church and for the worship of the people of God. We are reminded of the words of St. Paul, "that in the Lord their labour has not been in vain" (I Corinthians 15:58) and this has been very true as we come to come to worship God, to sing their praises to God, to offer their gifts to God and to be strengthened in the [illegible] that [illegible] them in their daily life. They have come over the years to the Church to seek the forgiveness of their sins, to hear the Word of God, and to receive the Sacraments of the Church.

Many of those who left their homes, families and friends in the "old country" sailed across the ocean and came to Upper Canada in those early years, would not know the hardships that lay ahead of them.

conditions of life were quite simple, even primitive by today's standards. There were no electric lights, no telephones, no running water. Many of the conveniences that we take so much for granted today. Other modern marvels such as moving pictures, radio, and television were beyond man's wildest imagination. Whatever roads existed in the frontiers of Canada were not gravel, but were merely paths cut through the forest. From Spring to Autumn the roads were often deep with dangerous ruts. In the Summer, the dust was nearly unbearable and in the Winter the roads were blocked with snow for weeks at a time, and settlements were isolated. Yet the people lived busy, happy lives, and the Church became the focus of many of the activities of the community. These early settlers wanted very hard to carve for themselves a new life in the wilderness.

The Anglicans that settled in Canada were of the Church of England and were [illegible] admirable British. In his book Bishop Lucas writes that the Church of England in Canada "began as a privileged colonial church able to do a splendid chaplaincy job but inadequate for the frontier peasants of the new land. In the larger centres, the Anglicans maintained the traditional Anglicanism, fostered adherents, and schools, [illegible] conditions directed government policy and left people of the small settlements to their [illegible]. The Methodist preacher on horseback, ran rings around the dignified Anglican blackcoat." While this statement may be generally true, there were undoubtedly exceptions, as surely this must have been the case with St. Thomas', Seaforth. I believe the story of St. Thomas speaks for itself in this regard.

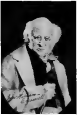
The Huron County area was sparsely populated and largely settled by Scots who were for the most part largely Presbyterian in belief and who were [illegible] of all the [illegible] people. [illegible] Church should be the first church in the area.

THE DIOCESE

On July 27, 1839, the Diocese of Quebec, which extended into Ontario, was split and Letters Patent were issued for the Diocese of Toronto, with the See City being Toronto. The Archdeacon of York, The Rev. Dr. John Strachan was appointed its first bishop. Bishop Strachan was to play an important part in the development of the Church of England in Huron County and more particularly St. Thomas' Church, Seaforth.

There were many clergy coming into Ontario who were in need of direction. Bishop Strachan was sympathetic to the needs of these clergy, many of whom arrived from England. Also he was well aware of the many poor and struggling congregations in the wilderness of Ontario. Bishop Strachan was able to make an urgent appeal to the British public and raise money to aid the struggling congregations. It was during this period, that the Canadian Anglicans were to build some of their most beautiful churches.

"The Grand Old Man"
of
St. Thomas' Church



The Rev. William Creswell

Rev. Creswell was born at Failsworth, near Manchester, England, in the year 1791. He was a graduate of Magdalene College, Cambridge, England. He was the Master of Wenham Grammar School which is connected with King's College, London. He came to Canada in the early 1850, and settled at Hamp[illegible]. He began his work as Rector of St. Thomas' Church in 1854, under the licence from Bishop John Strachan, of Toronto. He died June [illegible] 1866 and is buried in the [illegible] cemetery in the parish.

[illegible] the Rev. [illegible] succeeded Rev. [illegible] Francis Campbell in [illegible] County [illegible] and the missionary priest for all of Huron County [illegible] Dean Bernard [illegible] Rev. Cresswell was [illegible] throughout the area.

[illegible] the planting of the Church in Seaforth and [illegible] Cresswell [illegible] by the bishop of Rev. William Cresswell. [illegible] up [illegible] in the area. Under [illegible] English [illegible] Rev. Cresswell [illegible] the present Seaforth [illegible] congregation [illegible].

Rev. Cresswell was born near Manchester, England in 179[illegible] and came to Canada [illegible] with his sons [illegible] and William. The [illegible] Tuckersmith Township, where Rev. Cresswell took up [illegible] Harpurhey, a [illegible] village [illegible] Harpurhey and Egmondville [illegible] Anglican congregation. [illegible] English [illegible] the Anglicans in the area [illegible] Church group. [illegible] by the Rev. [illegible] Patterson [illegible] the Diocese of Huron who personally prepared the candidates for confirmation in the Church, a newspaper of the Diocese of Toronto, the schedule of Bishop Strachan [illegible] in Harpurhey on August 1, 1854. It would appear from a letter of Bishop Strachan dated August 15, 1854 that Rev. Cresswell had not identified himself:

> [illegible] in the congregation of Harpurhey I thought you represented [illegible] a clergyman, but as you did not make yourself known, and Mr. Patterson made no mention of you [illegible] had gone to Mitchell. I thought [illegible] now that you had no wish to be noticed. This I regretted because I could have [illegible] your letters of Orders and Testimonials. If you [illegible] are regular, of which I have no doubt [illegible] I shall be glad to license you to [illegible] any duty that your strength will admit in the destitute neighbourhood in which you reside. [illegible] to add that I have no funds at my disposal [illegible] remunerate you [illegible] services.
>
> John, Toronto

A follow-up letter dated September 6, 1854, gave Rev. Cresswell licence to be [illegible] the Anglican congregation of Harpurhey and parts adjacent. Rev. Cresswell thus proceeded [illegible] Anglican families in the area. He had begun to conduct services [illegible] administer Holy Communion to the congregation which met in Keen Hall. He [illegible]

Rev. Cresswell was a man who [illegible] and must be [illegible] pioneer work [illegible] prepared the way for a future Church. A very good [illegible] the people of the Parish and their new [illegible]. His [illegible] many ways [illegible] In 1860 [illegible] of the Presbyterian Church and Rev. Cresswell was present. [illegible] in The History of the Egmondville Presbyterian Church [illegible] English Church clergyman and [illegible] Cresswell made [illegible] of a good library.

He was the pioneer who opened the Anglican Church for the area. He did, as the [illegible] when many [illegible] were [illegible] other areas [illegible] the scattered Anglican families throughout the area. His [illegible] the Church [illegible] Like many of the clergy of his day, he had his own glebe farm, from which he gained his livelihood.

Volume 9 page 13, [illegible]

[illegible] odd, a usual [illegible] a community [illegible] considerable efforts. The Cromwells were [illegible] church and [illegible] a [illegible] complete with harm and for [illegible] at least [illegible] for many years.

[illegible] Rev. [illegible] Highlights [illegible] Every churchman [illegible] grand [illegible] of Mr. Cromwell with white hair and a [illegible] of St. Thomas Church [illegible] Rev. Cr[illegible] for many years. The original first Register [illegible] handwriting of Rev. Cromwell. The following [illegible] Register.

"[illegible] of the Register of Baptisms solemnized by me [illegible] M. Cromwell [illegible] Harpurhey [illegible] in the Diocese of Toronto by John Lord Bishop of Toronto.

First Baptism

[illegible] Van Egmond of Egmondville
daughter of William [illegible] and Caroline Van Egmond,
baptised on January 5, 1855.

In the first year (1855) there were twenty-five baptisms.

First Funeral

On January [illegible] 1855, Margaret [illegible] of Harpurhey was buried at Harpurhey Cemetery. There are no details as to who this woman was.

First Marriage

On June [illegible] 1857 [illegible] Glazer of Clinton to Maria Wagner of Harpurhey.

[illegible] 1866 Rev. Cromwell was called [illegible] 1866, and is buried in the family plot in the little cemetery of Harpurhey.

PLANS FOR THE FIRST CHURCH

There was [illegible] group of men under the leadership of the Rector, Rev. Cromwell, who felt that a church should be built to meet the needs of the worshipping community. They were to become [illegible] Subscribers [illegible] the task that [illegible] a new venture. This really took faith for they had to face the challenge, [illegible] the funds were not readily [illegible] that once they began, there was no turning back. The future of this growing congregation lay ahead. It would mean considerable sacrifice on their part but they were [illegible] gladly and willingly. A [illegible] was [illegible] by [illegible] Village of Harpurhey. The meeting records that everyone was in favour of proceeding with the erection of a church, and [illegible] to raise the necessary funds. The following is the record of the meeting as recorded in the minutes.

In pursuance of a Public Notice a meeting of the inhabitants of [illegible] vicinity was held in the School House at Harpurhey on the [illegible] day [illegible] 1855 for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means of making a fund for the erection of an Episcopal Church in Harpurhey of the United Church of England and Ireland.

Mr. Chalk was voted to the chair. [illegible] was moved by the Rev. Mr. [illegible] and seconded by the Rev. W. Cromwell.

Resolved

That this meeting is of opinion that it is highly desirable to adopt measures for building a Church at Harpurhey in connection with the United Church of England and Ireland.

Moved by the Rev. M. Paterson and seconded by Mr. A. Meyer and
2. Resolved that a committee be now appointed to carry out the object into effect. Carried

Moved by Mr. Francis Fowle and seconded by Mr. Henry Cresswell and
3. Resolved That the following Gentlemen be now appointed to constitute the Committee with power to add to their number and that any five members of the Committee shall constitute a Quorum. Carried

William Chalk esq.
Mr. Lewis Meyer
Mr. Adolphus Meyer
Mr. Francis Fowle
Mr. John Fowle
Mr. Johnathan Carter
Mr. Richard Cluff
Mr. Rander
Mr. C. L. Von Egmond
Mr. Edwin Cresswell
Mr. George Thompson

Moved by Mr. Fowle and seconded by Mr. Meyer and
4. Resolved That the Committee do now appoint Mr. Charles Cresswell to act as secretary & Treasurer. Carried

Moved by Mr. Rander and seconded by Mr. Berry and
5. Resolved That a List of Subscriptions payable to the Treasurer be now opened. Carried

Moved by Mr. L. Meyer and seconded by Mr. Edwin Cresswell and
6. Resolved That the cordial and warm thanks of this meeting be given to the Rev. Mr. Paterson for his attendance at this meeting and for the great interest he has taken on former occasions in the promotion of objects that tend to the religious and moral good of this neighbourhood. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Edwin Cresswell and seconded by Mr. Lewis Meyer and
7. Resolved That this meeting thankfully acknowledges the support given to the object by his Lordship The Bishop of Toronto, and the generous donation of the Hon. William Cayley and that a copy of the present be sent to his Lordship & Honourable W. Cayley. Carried.

The Rev. W. Cresswell then addressed the meeting to the following effect

In rising to move the resolution which I have been requested to propose, I may be permitted to state that I have received a letter from the Honourable W. Cayley enclosing a donation of Ten Pounds, in aid of the object which we have met to promote. I have also received a letter from his Lordship the Bishop of Toronto permitting me to place his name at the head of the subscription list for Five pounds, to be paid as soon as the building is erected. I have further the pleasure of informing this meeting that a grant of land sufficient for the church we have in view has been most generously [illegible] by Mr. Adolphus Meyer. A few friends [illegible] in England have authorised me to say that we may calculate upon [illegible] to the extent of Seventy Pounds.

Moved by the Revd Mr. Patterson and seconded by Mr. A. Meyers and
Resolved: that the following be the heading attached to the Subscription List.

"We the undersigned do bind ourselves to pay to the Treasurer the sum placed opposite our respective names one half on the first day of Oct. 1855 and the remainder by the first day of Feb. 1856. Said sums to be appropriated to the building of an Episcopal Church in Harpurhey of the United Church of England & Ireland."

The Lord Bishop of Toronto	£ 5
The Honourable William Cayley	£10
Subscription from England	£30
Dr. William Chalk	£ 5
L. Meyer	£ 5
A. Meyer	£ 5
Francis Fowle	£ 5
Richard Cluff	£ 5
C. L. Van Egmond	£ 3
A. Van Egmond	£ 2
Wm. Van Egmond	£ 3
William Cresswell	£ 2

39 other subscribers gave, for a total of £159 s5 d6.

The records show that all subscriptions were paid in British currency - pounds, shillings and pence. It seemed that everything was clear in order to proceed to the building. Lumber and other materials were ordered. But before delivery was to be made, the whole scheme fell through. There is nothing in the records to indicate what happened, so we must speculate from the history of the community as to what did happen. With the coming of the century the whole area was to undergo a drastic change.

DECLINE OF HARPURHEY

The Buffalo, Brantford, and Goderich Railway was opening a line through the area, and a rivalry developed between the two communities of Egmondville and Harpurhey as to who would get the station. The Railway Company finally settled on a site at the south end of the growing village of Seaforth which was a real blow to Harpurhey. As a result, within a very short period, Seaforth started to grow faster than the surrounding communities - especially Harpurhey. Many of the merchants and the businesses moved to Seaforth. Finally almost all the village of Harpurhey. With the coming of the railroad to Seaforth, and the shift of business and population, it was decided there the eventual site of the church would be.

DIOCESE OF HURON

In 1857 the area of the present counties of Oxford, including Huron County which had been part of the Diocese of Toronto, were now made into a new Diocese, which was to be called the Diocese of Huron. Bishop Strachan then summoned all the clergy and lay delegates to St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ont. on Wednesday July 8, 1857 for the purpose of "electing a fit person to be nominated their first bishop." What was so unusual about this procedure was that this was the first time that a bishop of the Church of England should ever be elected. All previous bishops were appointed by the King or Queen of England on the advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The man thus chosen and elected was Benjamin Cronyn who was then consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Huron, in a ceremony held in the chapel of Lambeth Palace on

October 28, 1857. He immediately set out to organize the Churches in the Diocese, which was no easy undertaking.

NEW BEGINNINGS

By 1859, Seaforth had become a place of greater importance and the Anglicans in the area began to look forward to the time when they might have a building of their own, where they might worship the God of their fathers in their own way. However, money was scarce and the difficulties were many. Through the influence of Rev. William Crawford, we find such men as Rev. James Carmichael, then the Rector of St. Paul's Church, Clinton, who was later to become the Bishop of Montreal and the Rev. T.C. Des Barres, coming to the aid of this struggling congregation. These clergymen were able to conduct regular Sunday services, holding them in the Carmichael Hotel which is now known as the Royal Apartments and the Dominion Hall, now known as the Queens Hotel. These men continued providing church services for three years. Then, Rev. John Kelsey the Rector of Mitchell began to conduct the services again using the Carmichael Hotel in the winter and in the summer they used Mr. Thomas Adams barn, which was situated on Goderich Street. The Ven. Archdeacon Elwood of Goderich also helped with the occasional service.

By 1862, the question of building a permanent Church building was taken up in earnest and it was decided that a meeting should be held to decide the future of the congregation. A group of prominent men of the community who were interested in building the church met and among them were the following:

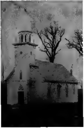
Thomas Adams, E. Cresswell, August Van Egmond, A. Strong, Joseph Fowler, James H. Benson, Edwin Hudson, Dr. Smith, James Brown, Andrew Archibald, John Oldfield, Ralph Thompson, Wm. Oldfield, Dr. Tenney, Leonard Sheldon, Captain Ord S. Fowler, J.R. Bell, George Jackson, Francis Case, George Sewell, George Case & W.J. Cleary.

These men met with a determined purpose in mind, and were unanimous that a Church should be built, and it would have to be [illegible] the building. The structure would consist of a tower and a steeple and construction was to begin as soon as possible. The lot on which the Church was built was donated to the Anglicans by Mr. Edgar Jarvis and is described as:

> Part of Lot 17 in the First Concession south of the Huron Road in the Township of Tuckersmith, according to the plans laid down and shown by And the Dep. Squire Provincial Land Surveyor and filed in the Registry Office for the county of Huron 17 April 1863 and known and described thereon as Lot [illegible] on the west side of [illegible] Street.

The original deed, in the original handwriting is lodged in the Office of the Diocese of Huron in the city of London.

It was during this part of 1862 that the Rev. James Carmichael, made rector in 1859 Rector of Clinton, was to take a more active role in the affairs of St. Thomas', Seaforth. Rev. Carmichael was appointed by Bishop Cronyn, to do the mission work in the area.



[illegible] Note the two [illegible] Also [illegible] A [illegible] surrounds the Church and [illegible] to the right [illegible] of the building. A man stands at the [illegible] of the photo.

Photo courtesy
National Photography Collection
Public Archives Canada

In a newspaper article of March 17, 1857 we read: "The Church is actually a strange mixture of Gothic and Greek Architecture." Another building of a similar style was the First Presbyterian Church in Clinton which later became the Church building for the Roman Catholics in Clinton. "The inside of the church was roughly finished and the seating consisted of plain boards on blocks, brought from Mr. Thomas Adams' bush. Much of the work was done by the men of the congregation, and the people were proud of their new Church for so long ago their dream became a reality." Apparently a bell for the Church was placed in the tower and was rung five times a day for the public's convenience.

In the year of 1863 another meeting was held to dispose of the funds collected in 1853 for the building of the Church in Harpurhey. The following are the minutes of that meeting:

> "In pursuance of a public notice of a meeting of the Subscribers of Tuckersmith and McKillop was held at Knox Hall on the 6th day of January 1863 for the purpose of disposing of a certain sum of money raised and collected in consequence of a meeting held for the erecting of an Episcopal Church in Harpurhey of the United Church of England and Ireland.
>
> Mr. Wm. Foster was called to the chair and Mr. A. Meyer to be Secretary. Moved by Mr. Francis Fowler and seconded by L. Meyer that those parties who paid their full subscriptions have to receive the one half of the amount subscribed and go on the equal share for the balance of the Subscriptions with those who only paid a share of their subscriptions. Carried.
>
> Moved by Mr. Ed Cash and seconded by Mr. L. Meyer that a dividend of 33 cents on the dollar be paid to each subscriber according to the money paid.
> Carried

There were 15 subscribers who received a total of $58.78.

In 1864, the Rev. C.C. Johnston was appointed by Bishop Cronyn, to be the permanent Rector of St. Thomas Church [illegible] 1873. Many interesting events took place during his ministry and we have recorded two highlights of [illegible] to January 1868 the [illegible] Missionary Society held a meeting in St. Thomas Church in which [illegible] were favoured with [illegible] addresses by Revs. Johnson (chairman), Bancroft and Cox Gold as well as Des. Sebastian and [illegible] which set forth the claims of the missionary cause. A very respectable collection was taken up in aid of the missionary society. This meeting was authorized by the Bishop and the clergy appointed by the Bishop to speak for the cause of the Missionary Society.

Then in April 1868, the little Church in the Village of Carronbrook (which was later to become Dublin), was opened by the Rev. Shaw De Bourdieu, Rector of Clinton. Rev. Shaw De Bourdieu then preached two excellent sermons in St. Thomas Episcopal Church and afterwards a respectable collection was taken up to reduce the liabilities of the Church.

On July 9, 1868, a company of Indians from the [illegible] Reserve near Brantford, under the leadership of Chief Johnston gave an excellent performance for the benefit of the Church. While they were in Seaforth they were entertained by Mr. & Mrs. Ludwig Meyer of Thomas Hill. The following is the report from the newspaper:

> "The concert in aid of St. Thomas Church by the Indian Warblers and Seaforth Amateurs came off as announced in Sharpe's Hall on the 7th instant. Ladies and Gentlemen came from a distance in [illegible] numbers. The hall was packed and some of our townspeople arriving late were fairly crowded out. Rev. C.C. Johnston pronounced a eulogy on his red brethren, thanking the audience for their enthusiastic support [illegible] and apologized for the absence of Mr. Hutchinson, Indian. The Indians [illegible] and were repeatedly encored. The finishing touch to the performance was the exquisite performance of Miss Mellons of Goderich on the piano and by Mr. Collins on the violin.

The following is a record of the Annual Vestry Meeting held April 21, 1879, which may be of interest.

> "The Rev. Mr. Johnston after having opened the meeting with prayer nominated Mr. J.H. Dawson as his churchwarden, the vestry then unanimously elected Mr. Emerg as Warden for the Parish. It was then moved by Mr. Benson, seconded by Mr. Bell that the annual statement of the labours of the Rev. Mr. Johnston and affairs of the Parish be received and that this vestry return the Rev. Mr. Johnston their sincere thanks for his very valuable report. Carried.
>
> Messrs Hobenbrand and Parker were appointed lay delegates to the Synod. The vestry adjourned to meet again on Monday evening, May 2 at 7:30.
>
> J.P. Bell, Vestry Clerk."

It would appear from this report that vestry meetings were short and very straightforward.

In 1870 the Rev. Reginald Stone was appointed the next Rector of St. Thomas'. He remained until 1874. During his incumbency the chancel was added (1872) to the Church. The next Rector to serve the Church was The Rev. W.L. Mills who later became the Bishop of the Diocese of Ontario. His ministry in St. Thomas' Church was quite short and he was followed by Rev. William Craig, who came from St John's Anglican Church at Montreal. Rev. Craig remained from 1875-1877. It was during this time that there are recorded entries in the Vestry Book showing that regular services were being conducted at Kinburn. One in the morning and then at a later date in the afternoon. There was an average of 25-30 people attending the Service at Kinburn but there is no record of where the services were held.

In September 1877, Rev. William R. Campbell was appointed the new Rector. It was by November 1878 that the congregation had expanded to the point where two fourteen foot wings were added to the north and south sides to give a greater seating capacity. The ceiling and roof of the church were [illegible] the Church, and gave it an entirely new dimension. The [illegible] on Sunday Services in 1878 had reached 121 souls.

In November 1879, Rev. J.P. Pound became the new Rector and in early 1880 as the final [illegible] of Rev. Pound 220 people packed the Church to hear his farewell address. Once again the people of St. Thomas' congregation were looking for another rector.

In April 1881 Rev. [illegible] took charge of the services and he remained until May 1883. He must have had a busy ministry as we read in the Parish Records that he conducted services at Dunrobin on Sunday afternoons which were usually attended by 35-60 people and also services in Kinburn and Fitzroy which were also well attended.

In May 1883 Rev. [illegible] Edmonds became the new Rector and he remained until April 1887. An advancement he made for the Parish and the progress [illegible] was to be seen in the purchase of the building to become the Parish Hall. The building which the congregation purchased in 1885 was formerly the church of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Built in 1864 it was originally located on 2 Peter Street, and measured 30 x 45 with a gallery and a seating capacity of 75. It was sold to St. Thomas' Church and moved to its present location where it is now used by the Sunday School. In 1885 the total attendance for the year was 284 with an average attendance of 96 persons. Total receipts for the year reached a new high of $605.74. We also note from the record that in 1887 there were 13 cottage services during Lent with an average attendance of 21.

By the spring of 1887 the congregation was once again looking for another rector and on April 24, 1887 the Rev. T.W. Magrath took his place as the new rector. Again [illegible] their incumbency. And in 1869 another new rector by the name of Rev. J.W. Hodgins was appointed. His term was the longest to date, as he remained 36 years until March 1905. In 1870, the first memorial window was placed in the church, and was to be the Dunkin Memorial Window placed in the chancel of the church. It was given in memory of Robert and Anne Dunkin. In 1882, there were twenty-one young candidates confirmed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Huron - Bishop Maurice S. Baldwin. In 1885, the pipe organ was installed in the Church by Lye and Sons of Toronto, at a cost of $1050.00. It was a heavy financial burden for the congregation, but greatly added to the worship of the people. On May 28, the Sunday School convention for the Deanery was held at St. Thomas' Church and at the evening service, there were over 200 people present. On December 2, 1886, a special service was held at 7:30 p.m. at which the Bishop of Huron - Maurice Baldwin was present with eleven of the clergy from the Deanery. There were over 350 people present for this service. On Monday Jan. 1, 1895 the congregation gathered for the funeral service to bid farewell to one of the most loved and outstanding members. Mr. St. Clair Simpson. He had served as a Churchwarden for many years. Many people still remember the great contribution that Mr. Simpson made to St. Thomas' Church during his lifetime, and over 400 people were present to pay their respects at his funeral service. The Memorial window "Jesus Blessing the Children" was put in the church in 1895, to honor his memory.

In 1902, the next great undertaking was the completion of the Sunday School Building, with the addition of the kitchen and the vestry robes for the Church. This was no easy undertaking and upon completion of the work, there was great joy and thanksgiving for a job well done. Also, on May 18 of this same year, the memorial window (David playing the [illegible]) of Thomas O. Kemp, donated by Robert McCann [illegible] 33 years a [illegible] in the care of Mr. Thomas O. Kemp who was superintendent of St. Thomas' Church Sunday School for many years. The window was donated by former students of the Sunday School and friends of Mr. Kemp. During the days of June 22 to June 29 prayers were said daily in the Church [illegible]. A special [illegible] for the recovery of the King of England who was gravely ill. There were a total of 31 celebrations of Holy Communion this year. The average attendance for all services was 24 and total revenue for the year 1902 amounted to $[illegible]. This was quite a sizeable amount for that year.

At Easter in 1903, the brass cross on the Altar was given by the S. Mattie Ward of the Canadian Bible Society in Toronto.

On March 26, 1905 after a long and fruitful ministry Rev. J.W. Hodgins gave a farewell address to a congregation of 375 people. On April 2, the Rev. John Berry assumed his position as the new rector of St. Thomas'. He was to serve as the rector of the congregation for over seven years. During this year, the [illegible] Memorial Window created by the N.T. Lyon Co. was placed and dedicated.

Picture of a Church Picnic in early 1900s.

(Rev. Berry Seated)

PEWHOLDERS

The major source of income for the Church in the early years, was from pew rentals. The pews were appropriated and rented by the families of the Parish. The pew holders established their place in the Church which families held for years and they opposed any changes. The Rector's pew was number 33. There were often problems associated with pew rentals and often visitors were embarrassed when they occupied seats belonging to someone else. In 1909 there were 46 pew holders paying from between $2.00 and $8.00 a year. By 1930 this had risen to 50 and the rent had doubled. By 1940 there were only 15 pew holders as the envelope system had been introduced to replace rentals of pews. The last pew rental was paid in 1953.

It was found that the rents had to be collected and there were often problems associated with collecting rent. People were often caught a bit short paying the rent. Therefore a voluntary system of giving was introduced through the envelope system. In the early beginnings there were 23 envelope holders, which proved not only beneficial for the Parish in that there were few problems, but it brought in more money to the Parish. It would appear that as the envelope system replaced the pew rentals, the understanding was that people would contribute at least as much as the pew rent, whereas in fact, people gave more than the rent. It was a new responsibility to be assumed by the Wardens and proved a most successful venture. People today, still support the Church through the envelope or [illegible] system.

THE CHURCH EXPANDS

On January 5, 1913, Rev. John Berry preached his farewell sermon and on January 12 The Rev. Thomas H. Brown became the new Rector of St. Thomas' Church. Rev. Brown was to become a very active worker all through the Parish and the community. He was forever searching out ways of improving the Church property so as to give everything a prosperous-looking appearance. Through his guidance and the various activities of the Parish, the Parish was able to pay off the mortgage on the Rectory. At a garden party being held at the Parish Hall, the mortgage was burned and the Church was then entirely out of debt.

Rev. Brown was to have the longest incumbency in the Parish, lasting over eighteen years, from 1912 to 1930. [illegible] a period of considerable growth and advancement for the Parish. Under his leadership a [illegible] were purchased for the choir and were worn for the first time on Palm Sunday 19[illegible]. It was also during this year that a passageway was built between the Church and the Parish Hall, joining the two buildings. It was not long before the choir was to walk [illegible] the Church, [illegible] presented by the Altar Guild. Also, the new brass Communion [illegible] a gift of Mr. H. R. Edge was presented in loving memory of his wife.

In 1917 [illegible] blower for the organ was added. Also a plot of land about one [illegible] of an acre on the west side of the Church on John St. was given to the Church by Miss L. Cromwell, who had [illegible] generous to the Church. The plot of land was given to be used for recreational purposes and part was used as a garden for the Rector.

During the year 1919 St. Thomas' Church celebrated its Diamond Jubilee with three days of services under the direction of the Rector, Rev. Brown. Bishop David Williams was the guest preacher and over 250 people were present for the Church supper. The [illegible] Anniversary Booklet was published but very few copies of this booklet remain in existence. By 1919 there were 55 families, and [illegible] in the Church, out of 220 souls.

The next major event in the life of St. Thomas' Church occurred in 1921 during an eight day mission which was being held in the Church. The mission, conducted by Rev. W. H. Roberts, commenced on Sunday March 13, and concluded on March 20 and was enthusiastically received. Just as the bell was about to be rung for the Tuesday evening service the Tower was struck by lightning during a violent thunderstorm. The tower caught on fire and was almost completely destroyed. A great deal of damage was also done to the front of the Church. Although there were about 57 people in the Church at that time no-one was injured. The service then proceeded. The Rector, Rev. Brown, offered a prayer of Thanksgiving for the wonderful goodness of God, for sparing all those who were present and for sparing the rest of the building. By April 1921 the tower was rebuilt at a cost of $375.00 and the work was completed by Mr. H. Edge and the parishioners. The Church was also repainted at a cost of $53.50, the money being provided by Mr. Ralph Cromwell. Lightning rods were then placed on the Church, and Sunday School buildings. The cost of this project was borne by Mr. Harry Cromwell.

On the Second Sunday after Easter, April 30, 1922, the beautiful altar which presently rests in the Sanctuary of the Church was dedicated at the Service of Matins. It was presented to St. Thomas' Church by [illegible] Mrs. Adelia Hoar [illegible] memory and for her contributions to St. Thomas' Church.

In 1923, after many years of being troubled with the old heating system, a new system was [illegible] installed [illegible] furnace with [illegible] ground [illegible] of [illegible] supplied good heat [illegible] Mr. William [illegible] Canon [illegible].

Front of St. Thomas' Anglican Church, showing the three entrances

During 1925, it was decided that the seating arrangement should be changed, as [illegible]. The seats were removed, and [illegible] aisle down the centre of the Church. The pews and the [illegible] of the Church were changed. The side doors were removed, from the wings, and the new entrance doors were [illegible], which gave a much improved appearance to the front of the Church. It is reported that all of the work was done by members of the congregation in the evenings, and [illegible] apparent [illegible] a tremendous contribution made by the members of the Parish [illegible] a great saving to the Church. The following persons should be mentioned as those who did much of the work: Messrs. H. Edge, Wm. Southern, H. Jameson, William Bowler, [illegible] Brown, James [illegible], L. Jackson, and Thomas Jackson.

Water from the town was brought into the Church from the town mains, and filled a great need for the Church. This work was paid for by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Church. At one point in time, the Church was surrounded by a wooden fence, which was given by Miss Emily Cornwell. Over the years, it gradually deteriorated and was finally destroyed, leaving the grounds open to the street.

In 1926 the Town of Seaforth held an Old Boys' Reunion which was also marked with special services in St. Thomas' Church.

In September 1925, the small brass vases for the altar were given to the Church, in memory of Henry J. and Emily Pritchard, by their daughters.

In 1926 Mr. H. Edge presented a window for the inside wall of the tower. The window was of leaded art glass, and came out of one of the homes in Seaforth. The men's choir raised the [illegible] in the [illegible] aisle as well as installing a new lamp for the pulpit.

On January 6, 1928, Epiphany Sunday, all the churches in the community were closed by order of the Board of Health. Rev. Brown, in the Vestry Book, noted that it was a "very rough day" for the community.

On April 23, 1933, St. Thomas' Church was filled to overflowing, as over five hundred people turned out to bid farewell to the Rector Rev. Thomas Brown, who resigned after eighteen years of ministry in the community. He exceeded the incumbency of Rev. Hodgins by two years. Rev. Brown retired from active ministry and went to Toronto to live with his family.

The Bishop then appointed Rev. J. F. Mayers, as rector of St. Thomas'. His was a ministry that was to last less than two years, for in 1935 the Bishop appointed Rev. Mayers [illegible] to the [illegible] at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ontario.

Next on the scene was the Rev. Canon Edward Appleyard, who was appointed Rector of St. Thomas' in 1935. Canon Appleyard was very active in all the Parish work, and he got a [illegible]. During his incumbency (Dec. 1936) a new steam heat apparatus was installed. Most of the work was under the able direction of the people's Warden, Mr. E.C. [illegible]. Mr. [illegible] was largely responsible for the effort and deserves much of the credit for the planning and the work. Over $[illegible]45.00 to purchase the new heat equipment, and the money was raised within twelve months. Canon Appleyard resigned as rector in 1937 due to ill health, [illegible] from active ministry and moved to Hamilton, Ontario to live out his retirement.

On January 15, 1938, the Parish welcomed Rev. R. P. D. Horford, D.D. as the new rector, who was appointed by Bishop Seager. Dr. Horford remained at St. Thomas until August 1940. He then was called to be rector of Christ Church, London and also to be an instructor at Huron College.

In 1938 the rectory was insulated and Miss E. C. Cornwell once more came to the aid of the congregation, by bearing the cost of this work.

In 1938 St. Mary's Church was attached to St. Thomas', Seaforth and this became a two point parish.

The years 1939 to 1945, saw another World War and Canada was again deeply involved [illegible] of the war. It was most difficult [illegible] congregation as the ranks of the congregation got depleted. Many of the necessary repairs had to put off due to the lack of funds.

In 1940 the Parish Hall [illegible] was painted. In December of the same year Thomas T. Jackson left a bequest of $1,000.00 to the Church.

In 1941 the interior of the Church was re-decorated. [illegible] angles were gilt ... the roof of the wings of the Church, while the [illegible] roof and the main building was painted with a [illegible] preparation to preserve it. Both Emily Cresswell and Margaret [illegible] each, left a legacy of $1,000.00 to be added to the endowment funds of the Church. Then in 1942, Miss Cresswell again left a further $2000.00 Government of Canada bond for the endowment funds of the Church. The Frances Foster Memorial Fund was established, with a gift of $500.00.

On Christmas, 1942, a beautiful Prayer Book was given for the Prayer Desk by Mr. H.G. Muir, who was the choir master at that time.

In 1943 Miss Florence Cresswell gave a further gift of $1,000.00 to be added to the endowment funds of the Church. Also in this year, Nov. 24, 1943, the large Bible for the lectern was presented by Mrs. Margaret C. Van Egmond in memory of her husband - Mr. E.G. Van Egmond and also in memory of A.G. Van Egmond and his wife Isabella Bryden.

In August 1944, Rev. C.T.L. Gilbert was appointed as the new rector of St. Thomas' Church. Rev. Gilbert came from London [illegible] up [illegible] here. On Sunday, Dec. 15, 1946, a special service was held for the unveiling of the memorial window of St. George which had been placed in the Church by Mr. & Mrs. Wm R. Archibald of Tuckersmith Township. It was given in commemoration of their son Arnold R. Archibald who gave his life in the service of his country for [illegible] Freedom and liberty. Captain Frank Archibald, in the presence of his family and friends, and the congregation, unveiled the memorial window.

By 1945, the congregation had grown to 75 families with a membership of 303 persons.

THE WORK STILL PROGRESSES

In 1948 Rev. C.T.L. Gilbert resigned and in Feb. 1949 Bishop Luxton appointed the Rev. T. Dale Jones, [illegible] in the [illegible] the [illegible] Rector of St. Thomas'. A complete program of reviewing, improving, and beautifying the Church was begun during the incumbency of Rev. T. Dale Jones. This proved to be a much greater undertaking than was originally anticipated. Rev. T. Dale Jones was never to complete his work because in March 1951 he was appointed Assistant to the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, at London, On [illegible] May 1951, the Rev. M. Eason Alan Sears was appointed Rector and he would take up the task of completing the Restoration Program. Instead of taking seven years to complete this work, it was done in two years.

[illegible] Rev. [illegible] Day [illegible]

Archibald Forbes, Rector's Warden [illegible] Mary's Church, and R.G. Parke, Warden of St. Thomas' Church are seen handing the keys to the churches to the new minister, while Archdeacon J.H.N. Mills [illegible] commission. Rev. R.D. Luxcarts of Wingham, Rt. Rev. G.N. Luxton Bishop of Huron and Archdeacon C.W. Foreman of London look on.

The restoration of St. Thomas' Church and Parish Hall was a story of enterprise, courage and faith. The original intention of spreading the work over seven years was mainly to facilitate the payment of this undertaking. By 1951 the Parish Hall was completely rebuilt and re-decorated and the new Vestry was added. A new Memorial Window "I am the Light of the World" with the inscription "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours" was unveiled and dedicated. It was given by the sons and daughters of William Richard Archibald, and his wife Jessie Valentine Craig, to their memory and for the Glory of God.

The work on the hall, with the exception of the foundation and roof, was done entirely by the men and women of the congregation. Work parties met in the hall every night for several months. The old plaster was removed from the walls and the ceiling, and the plaster on the walls was replaced with wallboard. The ceiling was painted white and the walls green. The men's cloak room was made into a modern kitchen. This was completely equipped by the women to make possible more extensive banquets and suppers. In the spring of 1951 the men again rallied together to tear down the old vestry rooms. A concrete foundation was poured and a local contractor, Mr. Cecil Torrington, built the Vestry and choir room, as well as two new washrooms. The men of the Parish decorated the interior of the Vestry and the other rooms using the same colour scheme as in the Parish Hall.

At the Annual Vestry meeting, held in 1952, the congregation unanimously agreed that the Church should be restored completely, and at once, preserving as far as possible its original structure, beauty and simplicity. The financing of this project would be left in the hands of the Board of Management. The entire undertaking was placed in the hands of Mr. C. M. Smith, a Seaforth Contractor, to whom the congregation owes a debt of gratitude for [illegible] valuable suggestions throughout the planning.

The building committee undertook the responsibility of the work. They too, gave generously of their time, energy, insight and the finished product attests to their zeal and leadership in this program. Any work requires a financial backing, and the congregation gave generously in support of this work.

The final touches were added to the Church on Saturday, September 13, 1952 thus ending a five month period of holding services in the Parish Hall. On Sunday the congregation met at 7:00 p.m. for the Re-dedication of the Church, led by Bishop H.N. Luxton. It was a happy and a joyous occasion, as the congregation joined together to give thanks to Almighty God for His blessings bestowed upon His people through this *Restoration Program*.

THE ORGAN

One of the outstanding features of the *Restoration Program* was the installation of the new pipe organ. The old organ produced a very pleasing and fine quality of music and tone, but it had served the congregation for some 56 years (1896-1952). The present organ was formerly owned by the *Windsor Radio Station*, and was purchased by Mr. Reed of Woodstock. He sold it to the Church for $3750.00. It is a Wurlitzer unit organ with five ranks of pipes and a set of cathedral chimes. Mr. Mel W. Hiatt of Woodstock installed the organ. Mr. Quentin MacLean of the C.B.C. gave an organ recital on the evening of Sept. 15 at which time, Canon Reginald Applyard, a son of the former rector, Rev. Canon Edward Applyard, dedicated the organ.

The Old Organ (1950-90)

Many memorials were given to the Church and dedicated during the period of the Restoration. The Cathedral lights were donated by the congregation in appreciation for the support of the Cornwall and the Jackson families. The carpets in the Chancel, the green curtains, and the dossal curtains were donated by the Chancel Guild. The Hymn Boards were donated by Mr. Gordon Wright and the Credence Table was donated by Mr. E.C. Reeves. The Two Windows at the front of the Church depicting the two major Sacraments of the Church were donated by the Ladies Guild. The Chancel was designed and remodelled by Mr. O. Roy Moore of London, Ontario, the Architect and the Designer who was also involved in the work of the new Huron College in London Ont. Much of the pine and redwork was executed by Mr. Gordon Wright whose fine workmanship added to the beauty of the chancel.

The Restoration Program was indeed a milestone in the history of St. Thomas Church. The congregation had every reason to be proud of their newly built church and as James [illegible] wrote:

For the good folk who have maintained that true little church through many past years it is indeed their spiritual home and they wouldn't like to see it any other way.

In 1957 Rev. William Jones was to leave St. Thomas' Church, and Rev. Jack James was to become the new Rector of St. Thomas'.

The year 1957 was important, for it marked the Centennial of the Diocese of Huron. The first service began with a pilgrimage to St. Thomas' Church in the city of St. Thomas, the first church in the area. The next service was held at St. Thomas', Seaforth, for this area. During this year, St. Thomas's Church received a bequest of ten thousand dollars, which was left by Florence and Emily Cresswell, to be added to the Endowment Fund. It was also during this year that major renovations were made to the Rectory.

In May 1959 Rev. Jack James was transferred to London, and Rev. Harry Donaldson was appointed by the Bishop to be the new rector of St. Thomas'. In 1959 the Anglican Church of Canada adopted the new Prayer Book, which attempted to get rid of some of the out of date language and removed former some of the phrases such as "conceived and born in sin." The priests were forever having to explain to the people many of the phrases that simply didn't mean what they said. As was the case in so many of the rural areas St. Thomas' Church reluctantly and only gradually accepted the new Prayer Book.

1961 saw the installation of the Heber John Hopkins Memorial Window - "Jesus Blessing the Children."

In 1962, the Church was saddened by the loss of their long time organist Mr. George Clarke who died after a brief illness. The Church acquired the grand piano in the Parish Hall from the estate of George Clarke. Needless to say, George was a man who was deeply loved by the choir and members of the congregation. His many years of service did much to shape the musical and talented choirs of St. Thomas' Church.

In 1966, the last of the memorial windows, "Jesus went about healing all manner of disease" was installed. The Harry Latimer Memorial window was a gift of Elmer Latimer and family.

During 1967 Rev. Harry Donaldson was called to be [illegible] after [illegible] years of ministry. The new rector of St. Thomas' Church was Rev. Stanley Sharples, who came from Delhi. He began his ministry at St. Thomas' Church on June [illegible] 1967 [illegible]. In October 1977 Rev. Sharples retired and moved to Bayfield, where he [illegible]. In 1968 St. Thomas' Church was aligned to St. Paul's, Clinton. The Rectory in Seaforth was sold and the rector took up residence in Clinton.

In 1971 the church was given a gift of two thousand dollars from the estate of Miss C. Holmes. A further sum of $5,000.00 was received from the estate of Martha Fowler. The sum of money received from these estates was to be used for the maintenance of the bell tower.

In August 1974 the contract was let for the tower which was repaired and painted at a cost of $6,500.00.

Rev. George Townshend, a retired clergyman living in Bayfield, filled in as rector from November 1977 to May 1978, when the present rector Rev. James R. Boneface was appointed by Bishop T. David B. Ragg, as Deacon-in-Charge. This is the first time that a Deacon was to serve St. Thomas' Church, and it proved to be a good experience for the congregation.

The year 1980 is being marked as the 125th Anniversary of St. Thomas' Church. Several events are being planned to mark the occasion. During the week of June 1 to June 8, several services are being planned as a time of giving thanks and re-dedicating ourselves for the task that lies ahead. Many of the former clergy will be invited to join with present and former members to mark the Anniversary.

Ladies' Guild Celebrates its 100th Anniversary November 2, 1994

From right to left: Dorothy Parke - Deanery President; Mrs. McGavin - President of St. Thomas' W.A.; Mrs. A.C. Calder - Diocesan President; Rev. J.H. James

THE LADIES OF THE CHURCH

The ladies of St. Thomas' Church have always played a significant role in the life of the church. Originally they had little voice, and no vote in Parish matters but today this has changed. Not only are ladies members of the Board, but in 1983 Mrs. Nancy Larose, a Rector's Warden, became the first woman warden of St. Thomas' Church.

The ladies of the Parish have always shown a great deal of enthusiasm for the work of the Church, and have worked hard in support of the Church. The annual A.C.W. Fall Turkey Supper in October and the Bazaar in November are events that members of the community and the Parish look forward to with a great deal of excitement. On many occasions the ladies have provided fun and dinners for various Parish functions. On June 18, 1995, on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Ladies Guild the ladies presented a new memorial window "The Resurrection Garden" to commemorate the faithful services of the women of the Parish. The window stands as a fitting memorial for all the ladies of the Parish without whose support, St. Thomas' Church would not be where it is today.

The present Anglican Church Women (A.C.W.) is the successor organization to the Ladies Guild and the Women's Auxiliary which was the missionary group for the Parish. The officers of the Anglican Church Women in St. Thomas' Church are: President - Mrs. Frances Tolland; Secretary - Mrs. Joyce Lee; Treasurer - Mrs. Carrie Snowdon.

We cannot fail to mention the Altar Guild and the ladies who so diligently and faithfully attend to the care of the altar ware, paraments and the Chancel. These ladies deserve a great deal of thanks for their work.

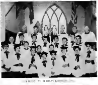
President: Mrs. Jean Sproul; Secretary: Mrs. Carrie Snowdon.

The Dedication of the Memorial Window. The Sanctuary Candle given by the Ladies Guild.

Miss Dora by Pe ke, Ven. Archdeacon F. G. Hardy Rev. J.R. James

THE CHOIR

We would be remiss if we did not make mention of the choir of St. Thomas Church. Throughout the years, there has always been a group of men and women and children, who have not only remained faithful in the choir, but also have made a significant contribution to the worship of St. Thomas' Church. There has always been a willing group of people who have gathered for practice on Thursday evening, under the able leadership of their choir master. The organist and choir master who has given the greatest number of years service was George Clarke. There is no doubt that Mr. Clarke did much to shape the music and the choir of the Church. Perhaps we might even go so far as to say that there has been no greater devotion to the life of St. Thomas Church, than from that group of people and they should be commended for their loyalty and faithfulness.



1950 ST THOMAS [illegible]

Back row
George Plewett, Bob Fal[illegible], Rev H. Evans, [illegible] (e piano)

Third row
Peg Coombs, Mary Rowcliffe, Janet Ford, Doris Adams, Marion Plewett

Second row
Ted Beutlinger, Clive Coombs, Bill Bounsey, Ian Harvey, Paul Spetal, Terry Ford

Front row
Ann Trimblock, Yvonne Adams, Jane Clevash, Mary Anne M[illegible] Louis, Peggy Cornish
Susan Stockwell, Frances Donaldson, Miss Onsett [illegible]

THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Sometimes we have not taken seriously enough the task of training the children of the Church. In fact there have been periods in the Church's history when there has been no Church School for the children. We however are fortunate today to have a group of women who give of their time and talents, to teach the children in the Church School.

We need to recognize the importance of training children in the Scriptures and in Anglican worship as they will one day be the future members of our Church. They should not be thought of as being separate from the Church but in fact must be made to feel they are a part of the Church. Thus, we make every effort to bring the children into the service: they are an important part of the congregation, and they DO belong.

The teachers and helpers are encouraged to upgrade their own teaching skills and knowledge of the Christian Faith. We should not only thank and encourage them in their task but we should give them our full support. The Church School meets at the same hour as the worship service in the Church. The Church School superintendent is Mrs. Helen Southgate.

CONCLUSION

Many people have come and gone in the life of St. Thomas' Anglican Church over the years. Some of these people have left their mark in a more tangible way than others. Some people are the more remembered by the older members but we must remember that St. Thomas' Church was built on the love and loyalty of these people to the Church. They were people with a vision and were willing to do their part to make their vision a reality.

It cannot be denied that St. Thomas' Church has had its share of difficulties, down through the years. There have always been a burden to the Parish, as the Church is in a constant state of rebuilding and repairing. These repairs have plagued this struggling congregation, and at times, the congregation has been so grateful for service benefactors to the Church. These persons have made significant contributions down through the years, not only by their interest but also by alleviating some of the financial burden.

There have been times of joy and sorrow for the people of St. Thomas' Church when the congregation felt that they were going nowhere and the future looked bleak. But always, just over the horizon, new life emerged, and the people became an example for others to follow by their endurance. The life of the Parish did indeed have its high points and its low points. But as we said in the One Hundredth Anniversary Booklet:

> "Now let us move forward with confidence and courage,
> Grateful for our heritage. Conscious of our responsibility
> in the spirit of glad surrender and in the companionship of
> our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, whom we serve in the
> Church Militant in the blessed hope that we may serve
> and adore him with the Church Triumphant."

This is the legacy that we inherit, and if we are to truly honour St. Thomas' Church [illegible] Seaforth, this is the legacy we must pass on to our descendants.

ROLL OF HONOUR

"They heard the call and answered"

1914-1918

John Bott
Rollo Cook †
J.H. Hodgson
Harold Dunn
Clarence Gurden †
Hanson George Barrett †
Frank Jackson
J. Nesbit
John Wilson
Roy Cook
[illegible]
David Watt
Garnet M. Brien

Russell Barr
David Cowan
William George McCurdy
Thomas Edgar †
Charles Hodge
James Henry McCurdy
Samuel Hillson
William Pinkney
Nurse Edith Nesbit
William Smith
[illegible]
William Beattie

Edward Sampson
Percy Robb
Harry Chinnery
James Edgar
Charles Ralph †
Harry Kerr
Ellis McLean
Harvey Smith
Sidney Dunn
John W. Earle
[illegible]
Gerald Case

1939-1945

Kenneth Adams
Edward (Ted) Southgate
Frank Archibald
William Edgar
Louis Jackson
Angus M. Lean
Carl Sheardown
Jack Moore
John (Jock) Hodson
Rolf Fresser
R.M. Southgate

Carl Adams
Arthur Layhuck
Arnold Archibald †
Thomas Bee
John E. Pinkney
George Knox
Derek Grummett
Nurse Mae Cardwell
Fred Jackson
George Case

Arthur Pralse
B. George Parke
Harry Foch
Thomas Wilson
Barbara Bott
William ([illegible]) Wilson
Frank Layhuck
James Bacon
Terry Sandford
James Southgate

† these gave their lives in service of their country and for our freedom and liberty

Some of those who served as Wardens of St. Thomas' Anglican Church

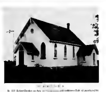
	Rector's Warden	People's Warden
1899	T.P. Ball	A. Strang
1900	F.C.O. Watts	G.P. Seldon
1902	E.A. Fox	W.E. Counts
1905	H. Ballard	J. Langstroth
1907-08	G.E. Parke	P. Holmstead
1909	P. Holmstead	H. Edge
1910	J.M. Best	H. Edge
1911-12	H. Edge	J.M. Best
1948-51	Thomas Jackson	R.G. Parke
1952-53	Thomas Jackson	Robert Ardstone
1954-55	Thomas Jackson	John Earle
1956-58	Thomas Jackson	E.C. Boswell
1959	Gordon Wright	E.C. Boswell
1960	Gordon Wright	Norman Eccles
1961	Gordon Stockwell	Norman Sutton
1962	L. Ford	G. Stockwell
1963	H. Falls	L. Ford
1964	H. Falls	W.F. Southgate
1965	John O'Mahl	W.E. Southgate
1966	John O'Mahl	Dave Cornish
1967-71	Howard James	Robert Dowman
1972	Howard James	G. Snowdon
1973-73	Gordon Wright	G. Snowdon
1974-78	Gordon Wright	James Snowdon
1979	Gordon Wright	Robert Pain
1980	Nancy Lawee	Art Varley

Rectors who have served the Parish of St. Thomas' Anglican Church

1864-1870	Rev C.C. Johnston
1870-1874	Rev Reginald H. Starr
1874-1875	Rev W.L. Mills
1875-1877	Rev William Craig
1877-1878	Rev W.F. Campbell
1878-1880	Rev J.P. Pinard
1880-1883	Rev Jeffrey Hill
1883-1888	Rev J. Edmonds
1888-1889	Rev T.W. Magahy
1889-1895	Rev J.W. Hodgson
1895-1912	Rev John Rowe
1912-1930	Rev Thomas H. Brown
1930-1932	Rev J.F. Meyers
1932-1937	Rev Canon Appleyard
1937-1944	Rev R.P.G. Hatford
1944-1948	Rev C.F.L. Gilbert
1949-1951	Rev T. Dale Jones
1951-1953	Rev William A. Jones
1953-1959	Rev J.H. James
1959-1967	Rev Harry Donaldson
1967-1977	Rev Stanley Sheeples
1978-	Rev Stuart R. Brentnell

Present Rector

The Rev. James B. Broadfoot B.A., M.Th.



St. Mary's, Dublin

In 1851 Robert Donkin an Anglican emigrated to Dublin and purchased 50 acres of Concession 3 of Hibbert Township for the sum of £50. In 1860 he donated a part of the plot to the Anglicans for a church site. The Anglicans then under the Rev. H. Canfield set out to build a simple white frame church on the site. In those early years, the congregation was served by Canon Ephraim Patterson, who was minister to the congregation of St. Thomas', Seaforth. The Church was first served by the rectors of Mitchell. At a later date, the Church became part of a three-point charge, with Seaforth and Hensall.

Since September, 1939, it became attached to St. Thomas' Church in Seaforth. Some of the rectors of St. Mary's during the years were Rev. H. Canfield, Rev. Freeman Harding, Rev. William F. Evans, Rev. Pierce Deloro, Rev. H.C. Bridgman, Rev. J.W. Hodgins, Rev. Charles Mills, Rev. Gilbert, Rev. T. Dale Jones, Rev. W.A. Jones, Rev. J.H. Bruce, Rev. M. Donaldson and finally Rev. Stanley Sharpin.

In 1970 the congregation had dwindled to the point where it was no longer possible to keep it open. Regretfully the Church was closed, the building was removed, and finally in 1978 the property was sold. Much of the silverware and altar ware were deposited in the care and keeping of St. Thomas' Church where it is on display today.

It is fitting that since Robert Donkin had such an interest in St. Mary's Dublin, that the history of this little church should end in St. Thomas' Church where Mr. Donkin also had an interest and in which the chancel window is dedicated to his memory.

3 1761 05523603

Old Church

An Historical Sketch
of
ST THOMAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
Seaforth Ontario
1855-1980

by
The Rev James R Broadfoot

Interior of St. Thomas Anglican Church
(Photo courtesy of Mr. Gordon Wright)

St. Thomas Anglican church corner of Jarvis and John Streets, Seaforth, Ontario
"Serving Seaforth and Community since 1855"

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Here indeed we groan, and long to put on our heavenly dwelling, so that by putting it on we may not be found naked.

II Corinthians 5:1-3

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

We do not know what deliberations were made, nor do the records show how our forefathers chose the name "St. Thomas" for the Anglican Church in Seaforth. Of one thing we are certain. The name was well chosen for this Parish Church.

St. Thomas is mentioned in all of the four Gospels as being one of the disciples of Jesus. In the Gospel of St. John, where his name is translated as "Didymus" (a Greek word meaning "Twin"), he appears in three separate episodes. In the first instance (John 11:16), Thomas shows his zeal for Jesus as he walks along the way to Bethany, by offering to die with him. In the second instance (John 14:5) Thomas draws out a discourse with Jesus by asking, *"Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"* Thirdly (John 20:25-28) he doubts the Resurrection of Jesus until he is able to touch the very wounds of the Risen Christ. After Christ's appearance he confesses his faith in the words *"My Lord and my God"* and thus he was the first to emphatically confess the Divinity of Jesus Christ. According to an early tradition mentioned by one of the Early Church Fathers, Eusebius, and by others, Thomas was supposed to have evangelized the Parthians. By another tradition coming from the Syrians, Thomas was supposed to have brought the Gospel of Jesus Christ to India, where he was martyred. The Syrian Christians of India today call themselves "Christians of St. Thomas" and strongly defend the tradition that they were evangelized by the Apostle, who was in later years martyred and buried at Mylapore near Madras. The "Thomas Cross", an ancient stone of either the 6th or 8th Century with a problematic inscription, is preserved in the Church which marks the place where his body is said to be resting. In the Anglican Church St. Thomas Day is a Feast Day which is observed December 21 of each year. Several writings are claimed to have been written by him, and are to be found in the Apocrypha.

OUR ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Bless us, O Lord, in this day of opportunity
  and in this year of celebration and thanksgiving

May our response to your calling today
  be full and abundant, glad and free

We give thanks to you for the founding members of
  this Parish Church, of St. Thomas, Seaforth —
For their vision, obedience and their enterprise
  for their work of faith, their labour of love.

And as those who have gone before us
  hand us the torch to carry into the future,
May we be aware of where the real needs of mankind lie

Fashion our minds to discover your truth
Strengthen our wills to do your work
Purify our hearts that we may see your face,
And fulfil our fellowship in service and praise.

That by your grace and mercy you may be known
  to us and to our children
To our neighbours and to the world

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

PRELUDE

The brief historical sketch of St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Seaforth, is written to the Glory of God, and is dedicated to all those men and women who, in years past, had a vision of an Anglican Church in the community of Seaforth, and who, through much labour and hardship, have carved out of the wilderness the beautiful house of worship which we enjoy today.

In this year of 1982, we celebrate our 125th Anniversary of the founding of the Anglican Church in this community. It is then fitting, that we should record the names of those men and women who have built this Church, and record the events that have left us a legacy of which we can be proud. As these people of the past have given us the torch to carry into the future, so we move ahead with a renewed vision of what the Anglican Church means to us who live in this community.

The author is indebted to so many people for the details of this history of St. Thomas' Church. First and foremost, I am indebted to the late Mr. Richmond G. Parke, whose history of St. Thomas' Church as recorded in the Vestry Book was used as the basis for this historical account; to Mrs. Nancy Larone and Mrs. Vivienne Newnham, whose invaluable assistance was not only necessary for the undertaking, but very much appreciated. Also, I am grateful to Ken Larone for his help and suggestions in reading the manuscript and to the many members of the congregation who have offered comments and remarks as they remember many of the events of St. Thomas' Church which are recorded in this book.

Last but not least, I am forever grateful to my wife Marion who so painstakingly read and reread, typed and edited the manuscript prior to the printing of this book. Without her patience and understanding it would not have been possible for me to write this history.

BACKGROUND

As I attempt to write the history of St. Thomas' Anglican Church in Seaforth, I often wished that I had more "raw" material at my disposal, so that I could write more of a portrait of St. Thomas' Church rather than a chronological history of events. Even now, as I write, more and more documents and other related materials are being made available to me, but time doesn't allow me to examine them for inclusion in this history at this time. I have tried as nearly as possible than to use the resources at my disposal to write a true and accurate account of the history of St. Thomas' Church. Therefore, what I have written must be thought of as an imperfect sketch of St. Thomas' Church and maybe one day someone will be able to take up the challenge and will be able to re-write a more detailed account.

Records are cold and impersonal, and unless one knows, or is able to read between the lines, we are unable to truly write the history of St. Thomas' Church. From the yellowing and torn pages of Church records, from the local newspapers and other histories written of this area by such persons as Isobel Campbell and James Scott, we are at best only able to get a glimpse of the chronological history of the life of St. Thomas' Church.

The members of St. Thomas' Church have so much for which to rejoice and to give thanks to God. Since the Church was originally founded and built, many changes have taken place and many lovely things have been added. Memorials of one kind or another have been dedicated to the glory of God, in memory of loved ones who have served the Church and for the worship of the people of God. We are reminded of the words of St. Paul, *"that in the Lord their labour has not been in vain."* (I Corinthians 15:58) and that here people have continued to come to worship God, to sing their praises to God, to offer their gifts to God and to be strengthened in the challenges that face them in their daily life. They have continued to come to the Church to seek the forgiveness of their sins, to hear the Word of God, and to receive the Sacraments of the Church.

Many of those who left their homes, families and friends in the "old country", sailed across the ocean and came to Upper Canada in those early years, would not know the hardships that lay ahead of them.

THE EARLY YEARS

Conditions of life were quite simple, often primitive by today's standards. There were no electric lights, no telephones, no motor cars - none of those conveniences that we take so much for granted today. Other modern marvels such as moving pictures, radio, and television were beyond man's wildest imagination. Whatever roads existed in the frontiers of Canada were not paved, but were merely paths cut through the forests. From Spring to Autumn, the roads were cut deep with dangerous ruts. In the Summer, the dust was almost unbearable, and in the Winter, the roads were blocked with snow for weeks at a time, and settlements were isolated. Yet, the people lived busy, happy lives and the Church became the focus of many of the activities of the community. These early settlers worked very hard to carve for themselves, a new life in the wilderness.

The Anglicans that settled in Canada were of the Church of England and were still ethnically British. In his book, Bishop Luxton wrote that the Church of England in Canada "began as a privileged colonial church, able to do a splendid chaplaincy job, but inadequate for the frontier pressure of the new land. In the larger centres the Anglicans ministered to the traditional Anglicans, founded universities, [illegible] and sometimes directed government policy and left people of the small settlements to the Methodists. The itinerant preacher on horseback ran rings around the dignified Anglican blackcoat." While this statement may be generally true, there were undoubtedly exceptions as surely that must have been the case with St. Thomas', Seaforth. I believe the story of St. Thomas speaks for itself in that regard.

The Huron County area was sparsely populated, and largely settled by Scots who were for the most part, largely Presbyterian in belief, and who were spoken of as the "praying people". There were a few Irish families. Thus, it is not surprising, that the Presbyterian Church should be the first church in the area.

THE DIOCESE

On July 27, 1839 the Diocese of Quebec, which extended into Ontario, obtained Letters Patent to establish the Diocese of Toronto, with the See City being Toronto. The Archbishop of York. The Rev. Dr. John Strachan was appointed its first bishop. Bishop Strachan was to play an important part in the development of the Church of England in Huron County and more particularly St. Thomas' Church in Seaforth.

There were many clergy coming into Ontario who were in need of churches. Bishop Strachan was sympathetic to the needs of these clergy, many of whom arrived from England. Also, he was well aware of the many poor and struggling congregations in the wilderness of Ontario. Bishop Strachan was able to make an urgent appeal to the British public and raise money to assist the struggling congregations. It was during this period, that the Canadian Anglicans were to build some of their most beautiful churches.

"The Grand Old Man"
of
St Thomas Church

The Rev. William Creswell

Rev. Creswell was born at Fairfield House near Manchester, England in the year 1798. He was a graduate of Magdelene College, Cambridge, England. He was the Master of Wetham Grammar School which is connected with Kings College, London. He came to Canada in the early 1850's and settled in Harpurhey. He began his work as Rector of St Thomas' Church in 1854 under the sponsorship of Bishop John Strachan of Toronto. He died June 19, 1868 and is buried in the little cemetery in Harpurhey.

THE BEGINNING

In 1839, the Rev. E.L. Elwood succeeded Rev. H. Francis Campbell as the Rector of St. George's, Goderich, and the missionary priest for all of Huron County, which included the communities of Harpurhey and Egmondville. Rev. Elwood was a very portly person with a strong sense of humour, who travelled extensively throughout the area.

In writing the history of the planting of the Church in Seaforth and vicinity, we must focus our attention on an Englishman by the name of Rev. William Creswell, who was the first clergyman to take up full time clerical duties in the area. Under the guidance of this old English grammar school master, Rev. Creswell, the present Seaforth Anglican congregation was founded.

Rev. Creswell was born near Manchester, England, in 1791 and came to Canada in the early 50's with his nephews Edwin and William. The nephews settled on farms in Tuckersmith Township, while Rev. Creswell took up residence near Harpurhey. Harpurhey was a thriving village of over five hundred people, while the area between Harpurhey and Egmondville, (which was later to become the Town of Seaforth), was the Cold Brook Swamp. [illegible] Anglican congregation. Backed by his [illegible] determination, this English schoolmaster took it upon himself to organize the Anglicans in the area into an active Church group. He was assisted by the Rev. Ephraim Patterson, [illegible] of Stratford [illegible] the Diocese of Huron, who presumably prepared the candidates for confirmation. In the *Church*, a newspaper of the Diocese of Toronto, the schedule of Bishop Strachan included a visit to Harpurhey on August 11, 1854. It would appear from a letter of Bishop Strachan dated August 15, 1854 that Rev. Creswell had not identified himself:

> I remember observing you in the small congregation of Harpurhey and thought you appeared like a clergyman, but as you did not make yourself known, and Mr. Patterson made no mention of you till we had gone to Mitchell, I thought at the time that you had no wish to be noticed. This is regretted because I could have inspected your letters of Orders and Testimonials. If your papers are regular, of which I have no doubt, I should be glad to license you to do any duty that your strength will admit in the domestic neighbourhood in which you reside. I am sorry to add that I have no funds at my disposal to remunerate you for any such service.
>
> John Toronto

A follow-up letter dated September 6, 1854, gave Rev. Creswell his license to be priest of the Anglican congregation of Harpurhey and parts adjacent. Rev. Creswell then proceeded to unite all Anglican families in the area. He then began to conduct services of worship and administer Holy Communion to the congregation which met in Knox Hall, Harpurhey.

Rev. Creswell was a man who ministered to all alike and must be given credit for doing the pioneer work that prepared the way for a future Church. A very good and happy relationship developed between the people of the Parish and their new Rector. He was in many ways what we would call an outstanding man. In 1860 a social was held to raise funds for a library in the Presbyterian Church and Rev. Creswell was present. As was reported in The History of the Egmondville Presbyterian Church, "the latter gentleman, an English Church clergyman and an uncle to Edwin Creswell, read a paper on the benefits of a good library."

He was the pioneer who opened the Anglican Church for the area. He did in this area what many ministers were doing in other areas, that was to be the missionary priest to the scattered Anglican families throughout the area. His personality was a great benefit to the Church, in the way he carried out his pastoral duties. Like many of the clergy of his day, he had his own small farm, from which he gained his own livelihood.

From the Huron County Historical Notes, Volume 9, page 15, we read:

"The Cresswell family, from earliest times, took a creative part in community affairs, in particular their church and charitable efforts. The Cresswells were staunch supporters, in every respect, in their church and their distinctive phaeton with 'fringe' on the top, or fancy cutter, complete with chimes and fur rugs, in front of church or rectory was a familiar sight for many years."

In Richmond Parke's "St. Thomas' Church Highlights", he writes: "every church seems to have a 'grand old man', as I look at a picture of Mr. Cresswell with white hair and a striking face, it is not difficult to see him as the 'grand old man' of St. Thomas Church, Seaforth." Rev. Cresswell carried on his work for many years. The original first Register is still in existence and is in the beautiful handwriting of Rev. Cresswell. The following notations are to be found in the Register:

"Correct and true copy of the Register of Baptisms (administered by me the undersigned W. Cresswell), licensed to discharge clerical duties at Harpurhey and parts adjacent (formerly included in the Diocese of Toronto) by John, Lord Bishop of Toronto."

First Baptism:

Harriet Cheng Van Egmond of Egmondville
daughter of William Anthony and Caroline Van Egmond
baptized on January 3, 1855

In the first year (1855) there were twenty-five baptisms.

First Funeral:

On January 11, 1855, Margaret Lowe of Harpurhey was buried at Harpurhey Cemetery. There are no details as to who this woman was.

First Marriage:

On June 26, 1857, Ernest Glowe of Clinton to Marie Vagten of Harpurhey.

The register continues to 1866. Rev. Cresswell was called to rest on June 18, 1866 and is buried in the family plot in the little cemetery of Harpurhey.

PLANS FOR THE FIRST CHURCH

There was an enthusiastic group of men under the leadership of their Rector, Rev. Cresswell, who felt that a church should be built to meet the needs of the worshipping community. They were to become the original Subscribers who would take upon themselves the risks that go with a new venture. They really took faith for they had to face the challenge bearing in mind that funds were extremely limited. It also meant that once they began there was no turning back. The future of this growing congregation lay ahead. It would mean considerable sacrifice on the part of those who would do gladly and willingly. A meeting was held to plan and organize the building of a church, and the site chosen was to be in the Village of Harpurhey. The meeting records that everyone was in favour of proceeding with the erection of a church, and a financial campaign was begun to raise the necessary funds. The following is the record of the meeting as recorded in the minutes.

"In pursuance of a Public Notice a meeting of the inhabitants of Tuckersmith and its vicinity was held at the School House at Harpurhey on the day 1855 for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means of raising a fund for the erection of an Episcopal Church in Harpurhey of the United Church of England and Ireland.

Mr. Chalk was called to the chair. When it was moved by the Rev. Mr. Patterson and seconded by the Rev. W. Cresswell
Resolved:
1. That this meeting is of opinion that it is highly desirable to concert measures for building a Church at Harpurhey in connexion with the United Church of England and Ireland.

Moved by the Rev Mr Patterson and seconded by Mr A Meyer and
2 Resolved that a committee be now appointed to carry out this object into effect Carried

Moved by Mr Francis Fowler and seconded by Mr Henry Creswell and
3 Resolved That the following Gentlemen be now requested to constitute the Committee with power to add to the number and that any five members of the Committee shall constitute a Quorum Carried

William Clark esq
Mr Lewis Meyer
Mr Adolphus Meyer
Mr Francis Fowler
Mr John Fowler
Mr Johnathan Carter
Mr Richard Cliff
Mr Bender
Mr C L Van Egmond
Mr Edwin Creswell
Mr George Thompson

Moved by Mr Fowler and seconded by Mr Meyer and
4 Resolved That the Committee do now appoint Mr Charles Creswell to act as secretary to Treasurer Carried

Moved by Mr Bender and seconded by Mr Bury and
5 Resolved That a List of Subscriptions payable to the Treasurer be now opened Carried

Moved by Mr L Meyer and seconded by Mr Edwin Creswell and
6. Resolved That the cordial and unanimous thanks of this meeting are given to the Rev Mr Patterson for his attendance at this meeting and for the great interest he has taken on former occasions in the promotion of objects having in view the religious and moral good of the neighbourhood Carried

Moved by Mr Edwin Creswell and seconded by Mr Lewis Meyer and
7 Resolved That this meeting thankfully acknowledge the support given to our object by his Lordship The Bishop of Toronto, and the generous donation of the Hon. William Cayley and that a copy of the proceedings be sent to the Bishop & Honorable W Cayley Carried

The Rev W Creswell then addressed the meeting to the following effect

In rising to move the resolution which I have been requested to propose I may be permitted to state that I have received a letter from the Honorable W Cayley enclosing a donation of Ten Pounds in aid of the object which we have met to promote. I have also received a letter from his Lordship the Bishop of Toronto promising me to place his name on the subscription list for five pounds to be paid as soon as the building is covered in. I have further the pleasure of informing the meeting that a grant of land sufficient for the object we have in mind has been most generously volunteered by Mr Adolphus Meyer. A few friends of ours in England have authorized me to say that we may calculate upon their assistance to the extent of Seventy Pounds

Moved by the Rev'd Mr. Patterson and seconded by Mr. A. Meyers and
8. Resolved that the following be the heading attached to the Subscription List

We the undersigned do bind ourselves to pay to the Treasurer the sum placed opposite our respective names one half on the first day of Oct. 1855 and the remainder by the first day of Feb. 1856. Said sums to be appropriated to the building of an Episcopal Church in Harpurhey of the United Church of England & Ireland.

The Lord Bishop of Toronto	£ 5
The Honorable William Cayley	£10
Subscription from England	£20
Dr. William Chalk	£ 5
L. Meyer	£ 5
A. Meyer	£ 5
Francis Fowler	£ 5
Richard Cluff	£ 5
C.L. Van Egmond	£ 3
A. Van Egmond	£ 2
Wm. Van Egmond	£ 3
William Cresswell	£ 2

59 other subscribers gave for a total of £159 s5 d6

The records show that all subscriptions were paid in British currency: pounds, shillings and pence. It seemed like everything was now in order to proceed, so the lumber, bricks and other materials were ordered. But, before delivery was to be made, the whole scheme fell through. There is nothing in the records to indicate what happened, so we must speculate from the history of the community as to what did happen. With the coming of the railway the whole area was to undergo a drastic change.

DECLINE OF HARPURHEY

The Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich Railway was operating a line through the area and a rivalry developed between the two communities of Egmondville and Harpurhey as to who would get the station. The Railway Company finally settled on a site at the south end of the growing village of Seaforth which was a real blow to Harpurhey. As a result, within a very short period Seaforth started to grow faster than the surrounding communities, especially Harpurhey. Many of the merchants and the businessmen moved to Seaforth, finally abandoning the Village of Harpurhey. With the coming of the railroad to Seaforth and the shift of business and population, it left no doubt as to where the eventual site of the church would be.

DIOCESE OF HURON

In 1857 thirteen of the western counties in Ontario, including Huron County which had been part of the Diocese of Toronto, were now made into a new Diocese which was to be called the Diocese of Huron. Bishop Strachan then summoned all the clergy and lay delegates to St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ont. on Wednesday July 8, 1857 for the purpose of "electing a fit person to be consecrated their first bishop." What was so unusual about this procedure was that this was the first time that a bishop of the Church of England should ever be elected. All previous bishops were appointed by the King or Queen of England, on the advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The man that was chosen and elected was Benjamin Cronyn, who was then consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Huron in a ceremony held in the chapel of Lambeth Palace on

October 28, 1857. He immediately set out to organize the Churches in the Diocese which was a very undertaking.

NEW BEGINNINGS

By 1859, Seaforth had become a place of greater importance, and the Anglicans in the area began to look forward to the time when they might have a building of their own, where they might worship the God of their fathers in their own way. However, money was scarce and the difficulties were many. Through the influence of Rev. William Cresswell, we find such men as Rev. James Carmichael, then the Rector of St. Paul's Church, Clinton, who was later to become the Bishop of Montreal and the Rev. T. C. Des Barres, coming to the aid of this struggling congregation. These clergymen were able to conduct regular Sunday services, holding them in the Carmichael Hotel which is now known as the Royal Apartments and the Downey Hall, now known as the Queens Hotel. These men continued providing church services for three years. Then, Rev. John Kelley, the Rector of Mitchell began to conduct the services, again using the Carmichael Hotel in the winter, and in the summer, they used Mr. Thomas Adams' barn, which was situated on Goderich Street. The Ven. Archdeacon Elwood of Goderich also helped with the occasional service.

By 1862 the question of building a permanent Church building was taken up in earnest and it was decided that a meeting should be held to decide the future of the congregation. A group of prominent men of the community, who were interested in building the church met and among them were the following:

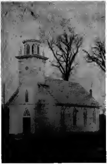
Thomas Adams, E. Cresswell, August Van Egmond, A. Strong, Joseph Fowler, James H. Benson, Edwin Hickson, Dr. Smith, James Brown, Andrew Archibald, John Oldfield, Ralph Thompson, Wm. Oldfield, Dr. Tracey, Leonard Sheldon, Captain Ord, S. Scarlett, J.R. Ball, George Jackson, Frances Case, George Sewell, George Case & W.J. Cleary.

These men met with a determined purpose in mind, and were unanimous that a Church should be built, which would for the time being, consist only of a nave, the central part of the building. The entrance would consist of a tower and a steeple and construction was to begin as soon as possible. The site on which the Church was built was donated to the Anglicans by Mr. Edgar Jarvis and is described as:

> "Part of Lot 11 in the First Concession south of the Huron Road in the Township of Tuckersmith, according to the plans laid down and shown by Andrew Bay, Squire Provincial Land Surveyor and filed in the Registry Office for the county of Huron 17 April 1863 and known and described thereon as Lot N093 on the west side of Jarvis Street."

The original deed, in the original handwriting is lodged in the Office of the Diocese of Huron in the city of London.

It was during this year of 1862 that the Rev. James Carmichael, ordained in 1859, Rector of Clinton, was to take a more active role in the affairs of St. Thomas, Seaforth. Rev. Carmichael was appointed by Bishop Cronyn, to do the mission work in the area



This picture appears to be a picture of St. Thomas' Church under construction in 1863. Note the tower is not yet complete and there is no sidewalk to the main entrance. Also the yard is scattered with lumber. A bush surrounds the Church and a barn-like structure may be found to the right rear of the building. A man stands at the front right of the photo.

Photo courtesy
National Photography Collection
Public Archives Canada

In a newspaper article of March 17, 1873, we read - "The Church is actually a strange mixture of Gothic and Greek Architecture." Another building of a similar style was the first Presbyterian Church in Clinton which later became the Church building for the Roman Catholics in Clinton. "The inside of the church was roughly finished and the seating consisted of plain boards on blocks brought from Mr. Thomas Adams' bush. Much of the work was done by the men of the congregation, and the people were proud of their new Church, for at long last, their dream became a reality." Apparently a bell for the Church was placed in the tower and was rung five times a day for the public's convenience.

In the year of 1863 another meeting was held to dispose of the funds collected in 1855 for the building of the Church in Harpurhey. The following are the minutes of that meeting.

> "In pursuance of a public notice of a meeting of the Subscribers of Tuckersmith and McKillop was held at Knox Hall on the 6th day of January 1863 for the purpose of disposing of a certain sum of money raised and collected in consequence of a meeting held for the raising of an Episcopal Church in Harpurhey of the United Church of England and Ireland.
>
> Mr. Wm. Fowler was asked to the chair and Mr. L. Meyer to act as Secretary. Moved by Mr. Francis Fowler and seconded by L. Meyer that those parties who paid their full subscription have to receive the one half of the amount subscribed and go on the equal shares for the balance of the Subscriptions with those who only paid a share of their subscription. Carried
>
> Moved by Mr. Ed Cash and seconded by Mr. L. Meyer that a dividend of 35 cents to the dollar be paid to each subscriber according to the money paid.
> Carried

There were 15 subscribers who received a total of $28.78.

In 1864 the Rev. C.C. Johnston was appointed by Bishop Cronyn to be the permanent Rector of St. Thomas Church. He continued with his ministry at St. Thomas until the end of 1870. Many interesting events took place during his ministry and we have recorded two highlights of 1869. In January 1869 the annual Missionary Society held a meeting in St. Thomas Church in which a respectable and attentive audience listened with much pleasure to the addresses by Revs. Johnston (chairman), Bancroft and Caulfield, as well as Drs. Schultz and Tibbetts, which set forth the claims of the missionary cause. A very respectable collection was taken up in aid of the missionary society. This meeting was authorized by the Bishop and the clergy appointed by the Bishop to speak for the cause of the Missionary Society.

Then in April 1869 the little Church in the Village of Caroniebrook (which was later to become Dublin) was opened by the Rev. Sheriff Du Bourdieu, Rector of Clinton. Rev. Sheriff Du Bourdieu also preached two excellent sermons in St. Thomas Episcopal Church and afterwards a respectable collection was taken up to reduce the liabilities of the Church.

On July 9, 1869 a company of Indians from the Six Nations Indian Reserve in Brantford under the leadership of Chief Johnston gave an excellent performance for the benefit of the Church. While they were in Seaforth they were entertained by Mr. & Mrs. Ludwig Meyer of Thornton Hall. The following is the report from the newspaper.

> "The concert in aid of St. Thomas Church by the Indian Warblers and Seaforth Amateurs came off as announced in Sharpe's Hall on the 7th instant. Ladies and Gentlemen came from a distance arriving early, possessed the best seats and most of our townspeople arriving late were literally crowded out. Rev. C.C. Johnston pronounced a eulogy on his red brethren thanking the audience for their attendance, requested to have no stamping of feet or whistling and apologized for the absence of Mr. Hersh, [illegible] Indian. The Indians male and female delighted the audience and were repeatedly encored. The finishing stroke of the performance was the exquisite performance of Miss MacDonald of Irishtown on the piano and by Mr. Collins on the violin.

The following is a record of the Annual Vestry Meeting held April 18, 1870, which may be of interest:

> "The Rev. Mr. Johnston after having opened the meeting with prayer, nominated Mr. J.H. Benson as his churchwarden, the vestry then unanimously elected Mr. Strong as Warden for the Parish. It was then moved by Mr. Benson, seconded by Mr. Bull that the annual statement of the labours of the Rev. Mr. Johnston and affairs of the Parish be received and that the vestry return the Rev. Mr. Johnston their sincere thanks for his very valuable report. Carried.
>
> Messrs Holmstead and Parker were appointed lay delegates to the Synod. The vestry adjourned to meet again on Monday evening, May 2, at 7.30.
>
> J.F. Bull, Vestry Clerk."

It would appear from the report that vestry meetings were short and very straightforward.

In 1870, the Rev. Reginald Starr was appointed the next Rector of St. Thomas'. He remained until 1874. During his incumbency, the chancel was added (1872) to the Church. The next Rector to serve the Church was The Rev. W.L. Mills, who later became the Bishop of the Diocese of Ontario. His ministry in St. Thomas' Church was quite short and he was followed by Rev. William Craig, who came from St. John's Anglican Church in Montreal. Rev. Craig remained from 1875-1877. It was during this time that there are recorded entries in the Vestry Book showing that regular services were being conducted at Kinburn, first in the evening and then at a later date in the afternoon. There was an average of 25-30 people attending the Services at Kinburn, but there is no record of where the services were held.

In September 1877, Rev. William R. Campbell was appointed the new Rector. It was at this time (1878) that the congregation had expanded to the point where two fourteen foot wings were added to the north and south sides, to give a greater seating capacity. The ceiling and roof of the church were also raised to its present height. The raising of the roof added greatly to the general appearance of the Church, and gave it an entirely new dimension. The average attendance for Sunday Services in 1878 had reached 123 souls.

In November 1879, Rev. J.F. Fraser became the new Rector and in early 1880 at the final service of Rev. Fraser, 220 people packed the Church to hear his farewell address. Once again, the people of St. Thomas' congregation were looking for another rector.

In April 1880, Rev. Jeffrey Hill took charge of the services and he remained until May 1883. He must have had a busy ministry as we read in the Parish Records that he conducted services in Dublin on Sunday afternoons, which were usually attended by 75-100 people and also services in Kinburn and Stoffa which were also well attended.

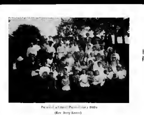
In May 1883, Rev. J. Edmonds became the new Rector and he remained until April 1887. An indication of the steady growth of the Parish and the progress it was making is to be seen in the purchase of the building to become the Parish Hall. The building which the congregation purchased in 1885 was formerly the church of the Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1864. It was originally erected on 27 John Street and measured 26 x 43, with a gallery and a seating capacity of 75. It was sold to St. Thomas' Church and moved to its present location, where it is now used by the Sunday School. In 1885 the total attendance for the year was 11,284, with an average attendance of 96 persons. Total receipts in that year reached a new high of $469.74. We also noted from the records that in 1887 there were "13 cottage services" during which an average attendance of 21.

By the spring of 1887 the congregation was once again looking for another rector and on April 24, 1887, the Rev. T.W. Magahy took his place as the new rector. Again there was in the a short incumbency, and in 1889 another new rector by the name of Rev. J.W. Hodgins was appointed. His term was the longest, to date, as he remained 16 years until March 1905. In 1890, the first memorial window was placed in the church, and was to be the Denison Memorial Window, placed in the chancel of the church. It was given in memory of Robert and Anna Denison. In 1892 there were twenty-nine young candidates confirmed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Huron - Bishop Maurice S. Baldwin. In 1895, the pipe organ was installed in the Church by Lye and Sons of Toronto, at a cost of $1190.00. It was a heavy financial burden for the congregation, but greatly added to the worship of the people. On May 28, the Sunday School convention for the Deanery was held at St. Thomas' Church, and at the evening service, there were over 250 people present. On December 2, 1898, a special service was held at 8:00 p.m. at which the Bishop of Huron - Maurice Baldwin was present with eleven of the clergy from the Deanery. There were over 350 people present for this service. On Monday, Jan. 1, 1899, the congregation gathered for the funeral service to bid farewell to one of the most loved and outstanding members - Mr. St. Clair Simpson. He had served as a Churchwarden for many years. Many people still remember the great contribution that Mr. Simpson made to St. Thomas' Church, being its [illegible]. Over 400 people were present to pay their respects at his funeral service. The Memorial window "Jesus Blessing the Children" was put in the church in 1905, to honor his memory.

In 1902 the next great undertaking was the completion of the Sunday School Building, with the addition of the kitchen and the vestry robes for the Church. This was no easy undertaking and upon completion of the work there was great joy and thanksgiving for a job well done. Also on May 18 of this same year the memorial window (David playing the harp) of Thomas O. Kemp, created by Robert McCausland of Toronto, was unveiled with 152 people present for the service. Mr. Thomas O. Kemp was superintendent of St. Thomas' Church Sunday School for many years. The window was donated by former students of the Sunday School and friends of Mr. Kemp. During the days of June 22 to June 29 prayers were said daily in the Church as in other Anglican Churches for the recovery of the King of England who was gravely ill. There were a total of 31 celebrations of Holy Communion this year. The average attendance for all services was 124, and total revenue for the year 1902 amounted to $4469.00. This was quite a sizable amount for that year.

At Easter in 1903 the brass cross on the Altar was given by the St. Matthias Ward of the Canadian Bible Society at Toronto.

On March 26, 1905 after a long and faithful ministry, Rev. J.W. Hodgins gave a farewell address to a congregation of 375 people. On April 2, the Rev. John Berry assumed his position as the new rector of St. Thomas'. He was to minister to the needs of the congregation for over seven years. During this year the Ellen Holmstead Memorial Window created by the N.T. Lyon Co. was placed and dedicated.



Picnic at a [illegible] early 1900s

(Rev. Berry Rector)

PEWHOLDERS

The major source of income for the Church in the early years was from pew rentals. The pews were appropriated and rented by the families of the Parish. The pew holders established their place in the Church, which families held for years and they opposed any changes. The Rector's pew was number 33. There were often problems associated with pew rentals and often visitors were embarrassed when they occupied seats belonging to someone else. In 1869 there were 60 pew holders paying rent between $2.50 and $5.00 a year. By 1880 this had risen to 88 and the rent had climbed. By 1910 there were only 16 pew holders as the envelope system had been introduced to replace rentals of pews. The last pew rental was paid in 1913.

It was found that the rents had to be collected and there were often problems associated with collecting them. People were often slow about paying the rent. Therefore a voluntary system of giving was introduced through the envelope system. In the early beginnings there were 25 envelope holders, which proved not only beneficial for the Parish in that there were less problems but it brought in more money to the Parish. It would appear that as the envelope system replaced the pew rentals the understanding was that people would contribute at least as much as the pew rent whereas in fact people gave more than the rents. It was a new responsibility to be assumed by the Wardens and proved a most successful venture. People today still support the Church through their givings in the envelope system.

THE CHURCH EXPANDS

On January 5 1913 Rev. John Berry preached his final sermon and on January 12 The Rev. Thomas H. Brown became the new Rector of St. Thomas' Church. Rev. Brown was to become a very active worker all through the Parish and the community. He was forever searching out ways of improving the Church property so as to give everything a prosperous-looking appearance. Through his guidance and the various activities of the Parish the Parish was able to pay off the mortgage on the Rectory. At a special social evening held in the Parish Hall the mortgage was burned and the Church was once more out of debt.

Rev. Brown was to have the longest incumbency at the Parish lasting over eighteen years from 1912 to 1930. His ministry marks a period of consolidation and advancement for the Parish. Under his leadership gowns (Surplices?) were purchased for the choir and were worn for the first time on Palm Sunday 1913. It was also during this year that a passageway was built between the Church and the Parish Hall joining the two buildings. It was not long before the choir was to walk into the chancel of the Church on a new carpet presented by the Altar Guild. Also the new brass Communion Rail, a gift of Mr. H. B. Edge, was presented in loving memory of his wife.

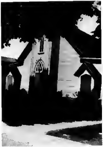
In 1917 the electric Blower for the organ was added. Also a plot of land about one quarter of an acre on the west side of the Church on John St. was given to the Church by Miss P. Creswell who had on so many occasions given generously to the Church. This plot of land was given to be used for recreational purposes, and part was used as a garden for the Rector.

During the year 1917 St. Thomas Church celebrated its Diamond Jubilee with three special services under the direction of the Rector Rev. Brown. Bishop David Williams was the guest preacher and over 250 people were present for the church supper. The first Anniversary Booklet was published but very few copies of this booklet remain in circulation. By 1919 there were 55 families and 21 adults on the rolls for a total of 210 souls.

The next major event in the life of St. Thomas Church occurs in 1921 during an eight-day mission which was being held in the Church. The mission conducted by Rev. W. H. Roberts commenced on Sunday March 13 and concluded on March 20 and was enthusiastically received. Just as the bell was about to be rung for the Tuesday evening service the Tower was struck by lightning during a violent thunderstorm. The tower caught on fire and was almost completely destroyed. A great deal of damage was also done to the front of the Church. Although there were about 57 people in the Church at the time no one was injured. The service then proceeded. The Rector Rev. Brown offered a prayer of Thanksgiving for the wonderful goodness of God for sparing all those who were present and for sparing the rest of the building. By April 1921 the tower was rebuilt at a cost of $375.00 and the work was completed by Mr. H. Edge, one of the parishioners. The Church was also repainted at a cost of $153.00, the money being provided by Mr. Ralph Creswell. Lightning rods were then placed on the Church and Sunday School building. The cost of this project was borne by Mr. Harry Creswell.

On the Second Sunday after Easter, April 30, 1922 the beautiful altar which presently adorns the Sanctuary in the Church was dedicated at the Service of Matins. It was presented to St. Thomas Church by the children of Mrs. Adaline Best in her memory and for her contributions to St. Thomas Church.

In 1923, after many years of being troubled with the old heating system, a new system was finally installed. It was a Kelsie gravity furnace which gave a great deal of satisfaction and supplied a good heat. It was installed by Mr. William Smithers and Mr. John Cummings.



Front of St. Thomas' Anglican Church showing the three entrances.

During 1923 it was decided that the seating arrangements should be changed to facilitate a centre aisle. The seats were removed and altered to allow a middle aisle at the centre of the Church. The pews and the woodwork of the Church were painted. The side doors were removed from the wings and the new centre doors were installed which gave a much improved appearance to the front of the Church. It is reported that all of the work was done by members of the congregation in the evenings and in their spare time. It was a tremendous contribution made by the members of the Parish at a great saving to the Church. The following persons should be mentioned as those who undertook most of the work: Messrs. H. Edge, Wm. Smithers, H. Johnston, William Bascher, William Doere, James Grummett, L. Jackson and Thomas Jackson.

Water from the town was brought into the Church from the town mains and filled a great need for the Church. This work was paid for by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Church. At one point in time, the Church was surrounded by a wooden fence, which was given by Miss Emily Cresswell. Over the years, it gradually deteriorated and was finally destroyed, leaving the grounds open to the street.

In 1924 the Town of Seaforth held its Old Boys' Reunion, which was also marked with special services in St. Thomas' Church.

In September 1925, the small brass vases for the altar were given to the Church, in memory of Henry J. and Emily Punchard, by their daughters.

In 1926, Mr. H. Edge presented a window for the inside wall of the tower. The window was of leaded art glass, and came out of one of the homes in Seaforth. The men's class raised the lights in the centre aisle as well as installing a new lamp for the pulpit.

On January 6, 1929, Epiphany Sunday, all the churches in the community were closed by Order of the Board of Health. Rev. Brown in the Vestry Book, noted that it was a "very rough day" for the community.

On April 27, 1930, St. Thomas' Church was filled to overflowing as over five hundred people turned out to bid farewell to the Reverend Mr. Thomas Brown, who resigned after eighteen years of ministry in the community. He exceeded the incumbency of Rev. Hodgins by two years. Rev. Brown retired from active ministry and went to Toronto to live with his family.

The bishop then appointed Rev. J. F. Meyers, as rector of St. Thomas. His was a ministry that was to last less than two years, for in 1932, the bishop appointed Rev. Meyers assistant to the Dean at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ontario.

Next on the scene was the Rev. Canon Edward Appleyard, who was appointed Rector of St. Thomas in 1932. Canon Appleyard was very active in all the Parish work and his genial disposition made him a friend of everyone. During his incumbency (Dec. 1936), a new steam heating system was installed. Most of the work was under the able direction of the people's Warden, Mr. R.G. Parke. Mr. Parke was largely responsible for this effort and deserves much of the credit for the planning and the work. It cost $1165.00 to purchase the new heating system, and the money was raised within twelve months. Canon Appleyard resigned as rector in 1937 due to ill health, then retired from active ministry and moved to Hamilton, Ontario to live out his retirement.

On January 15, 1938, the Parish welcomed Rev. F.P.D. Hurford, D.D., as their new rector, who was appointed by Bishop Seager. Dr. Hurford remained at St. Thomas until August 1944. He then was called to be rector of Christ Church, London and also to be an instructor at Huron College.

In 1938 the rectory was remodelled and Miss E. Cresswell once more came to the aid of the congregation by bearing the cost of this work.

In 1939 St. Mary's Dublin was attached to St. Thomas' Seaforth, and this became a two point parish.

The years 1939 to 1945 saw another World War and Canada was caught up with the events of the war. It is a most difficult time for most congregations, as the ranks of the congregation are depleted. Many of the necessary repairs have to put off due to the lack of funds.

In 1940 the Parish Hall interior was painted. In December of the same year, Thomas T. Jackson left a bequest of $1,000.00 to the Church.

In 1941, the interior of the Church was re-decorated. New shingles were put on the roof of the wings of the Church, while the iron roof on the main building was painted with a special preparation to preserve it. Both Emily Creswell and Margaret Jackson each left a legacy of $1,000.00 to be added to the endowment funds of the Church. Then, in 1942, Miss Creswell again left a further $2000.00 Government of Canada bond for the endowment funds of the Church. The Frances Fowler Memorial Fund was established, with a gift of $500.00.

On Christmas, 1942, a beautiful Prayer Book was given for the Prayer Desk by Mr. H.G. Meir, who was the choir master at that time.

In 1943, Miss Florence Creswell gave a further gift of $1,000.00 to be added to the endowment funds of the Church. Also in this year, Nov 24, 1943, the large Bible for the lectern was presented by Mrs. Margaret E. Van Egmond in memory of her husband - Mr. L.G. Van Egmond and also in memory of A.G. Van Egmond and his wife Isabelle Beydon.

In August 1944 Rev. C.F.L. Gilbert was appointed as the new rector of St. Thomas' Church. Rev. Gilbert came from London, Ontario to take up duties here. On Sunday, Dec. 15, 1946, a special service was held for the unveiling of the memorial window of St. George which had been placed in the Church by Mr. & Mrs. Wm R. Archibald of Tuckersmith Township. It was given in commemoration of their son Arnold R. Archibald who gave his life in the service of his country for our freedom and liberty. Captain Frank Archibald, in the presence of his family and friends and the congregation, unveiled the memorial window.

By 1945, the congregation had grown to 73 families with a membership of 303 persons.

THE WORK STILL PROGRESSES

In 1948 Rev. C.F.L. Gilbert resigned and in Feb. 1949 Bishop Luxton appointed the Rev. T. Dale Jones, a former Chaplain of the R.C.A.F. as the new Rector of St. Thomas. A complete program of restoring, improving and beautifying the Church was begun during the incumbency of Rev. T. Dale Jones. This proved to be a much greater undertaking than was originally anticipated. Rev. T. Dale Jones was never to complete this work because, in March 1951 he was appointed Assistant to the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ontario. In May 1951, the Rev. William Alan Jones was appointed Rector and he would take up the task of completing the Restoration Program. Instead of taking seven years to complete the work, it was done in two years.

Induction of Rev. T. Dale Jones

Archibald Forbes, Rector's Warden of St. Mary's Dublin, and R.G. Parke, Warden of St. Thomas' Church are seen handing the keys to the churches to the new minister, while Archdeacon J.H.N. Mills diocesan commissioner, Rev. E.O. Lancaster of Wingham, Rt. Rev. G.N. Luxton Bishop of Huron and Archdeacon C.W. Foreman of London look on.

The restoration of St. Thomas' Church and Parish Hall was a story of enterprise, courage and faith. The original intention of spreading the work over seven years was mainly to facilitate the payment of this undertaking. By 1951, the Parish Hall was completely restored and re-decorated and the new Vestry was added. A new Memorial Window "I am the Light of the World" with the inscription "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours" - was installed and dedicated. It was given by the sons and daughters of William Richard Archibald and his wife Jessie Vallance Craig, to their memory and for the Glory of God.

The work on the hall, with the exception of the foundation and roof, was done entirely by the men and women of the congregation. Work parties met in the hall every night for several months. The old plaster was removed from the walls and the ceiling, and the plaster on the walls was replaced with wallboard. The ceiling was painted white and the walls green. The men's choir room was made into a modern kitchen. This was completely equipped by the women to better enable them to serve banquets and teas. In the spring of 1951, the men again rallied together to tear down the old vestry room. A memorial fund/donation was secured and a local contractor, Mr. Grant Trevegan, built the Vestry and choir room as well as two new washrooms. The men of the Parish decorated the interior of the Vestry and the other rooms, using the same colour scheme as in the Parish Hall.

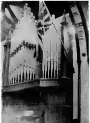
At the Annual Vestry meeting held in 1952 the congregation unanimously agreed that the Church should be restored completely and at once, preserving as far as possible its original structure, beauty and simplicity. The financing of the project would be left in the hands of the Board of Management. The entire undertaking was placed in the hands of Mr. C. M. Smith, a Seaforth Contractor, to whom the congregation owes a debt of gratitude for generosity of time, splendid suggestions, foresight and planning.

The building committee undertook the responsibility of the work. They too gave generously of their time, energy, insights and the finished product attests to their part and leadership in this program. Any work requires a financial backing and the congregation gave generously in support of this work.

The final touches were added to the Church on Saturday, September 13, 1952, thus ending a five month period of holding services in the Parish Hall. On Sunday the congregation met at 7:00 p.m. for the Re-dedication of the Church led by Bishop G. N. Luxton. It was a happy and a joyous occasion as the congregation joined together to give thanks to Almighty God for His blessings bestowed upon the people through this Restoration Program.

THE ORGAN

One of the outstanding features of the Restoration Program was the installation of the new pipe organ. The old organ produced a very pleasing and fine quality of music and tone but it had served the congregation for some 56 years (1892-1952). The present organ was formerly owned by the Windsor Radio Station and was purchased by Mr. Reid of Woodstock. He sold it to the Church for $3750.00. It is a Wurlitzer unified pipe organ with five ranks of pipes and a set of cathedral chimes. Mr. Mel Willis of Woodstock installed the organ. Mr. Quentin MacLean of the C.B.C. gave an organ recital on the evening of Sept. 15 at which time Canon Reginald Appleyard, a son of the former rector Rev. Canon Edward Appleyard, dedicated the organ.



The Old Organ 1895-1952

Many memorials were given to the Church and dedicated during the period of the Restoration. The Cathedral lights were donated by the congregation in appreciation for the support of the Creswell and the Jackson families. The carpets in the Chancel, the green paraments, and the dossal curtains were donated by the Chancel Guild. The Hymn Boards were donated by Mr. Gordon Wright and the Credence Table was donated by Mr. E.C. Borwell. The East Windows at the front of the Church depicting the two major Sacraments of the Church were donated by the Ladies Guild. The Chancel was designed and remodelled by Mr. O. Roy Moore of London, Ontario, the Architect and the Designer who was also involved in the work of the new Huron College in London Ont. Much of the panel and woodwork was executed by Mr. Gordon Wright, whose fine workmanship added to the beauty of the chancel.

The Restoration Program was indeed a milestone in the history of St Thomas' Church. The congregation had every reason to be proud of their newly built church, and as James Scott wrote:

> For the good folk who have maintained that trim little church through many generations it is indeed their spiritual home and they wouldn't like to see it any other way."

In 1957, Rev. William James was to leave St. Thomas' Church, and Rev. Jack James was to become the new Rector of St. Thomas.

The year 1957 was important, for it marked the Centennial of the Diocese of Huron. The first service began with a pilgrimage to St. Thomas' Church in the city of St. Thomas, the first church in the area. The next service was held at St. Thomas', Seaforth, for this area. During this year, St. Thomas's Church received a bequest of ten thousand dollars, which was left by Florence and Emily Cresswell, to be added to the Endowment Fund. It was also during this year, that major renovations were made to the Rectory.

In May 1958, Rev. Jack James was transferred to London, and Rev. Harry Donaldson was appointed by the Bishop to be the new rector of St. Thomas'. In 1959, the Anglican Church of Canada adopted the new Prayer Book, which attempted to get rid of some of the out of date language and removed forever some of the phrases such as "conceived and born in sin." The priests were forever having to explain to the people many of the phrases that simply didn't mean what they said. As was the case in so many of the rural areas St. Thomas' Church reluctantly and only gradually accepted the new Prayer Book.

1961 saw the installation of the Hubert John Hopkins Memorial Window, "Jesus Blessing the Children".

In 1962, the Church was saddened by the loss of their long time organist Mr. George Clarke, who died after a brief illness. The Church acquired the present piano in the Parish Hall from the estate of George Clarke. Needless to say, George was a man who was deeply loved by the choir and members of the congregation. His many years of service did much to shape the musical and talented choirs of St. Thomas' Church.

In 1966, the last of the memorial windows, "Jesus went about healing all manner of illness" was installed. The North Larone Memorial window was a gift of Elmer Larone and family.

On May 28, 1967, Rev. Harry Donaldson went to Delhi concluding eight years of a most happy ministry. The new rector of St. Thomas' Church was Rev. Stanley Sharples, who came from Delhi. He began his ministry in St. Thomas' Church on June 1, 1967 and remained until his retirement in October 1977. Rev. Sharples retired and moved to Bayfield, where he presently resides. In 1968, St. Thomas' Church was aligned to St. Paul's in Clinton. The Rectory in Seaforth was sold, and the rector took up residence in Clinton.

In 1971, the church was given a gift of two thousand dollars from the estate of Mary C. Holmes. A further sum of $5,000.00 was received from the estate of Martha Fowler. The sum of money received from these estates was to be used for the restoration of the bell tower.

In August 1974, the contract was let for the tower, which was repaired and painted at a cost of $6,200.00.

Rev. George Youmatoff, a retired clergyman living in Bayfield, filled in as rector from November 1977 to May 1978, when the present rector, Rev. James R. Broadfoot was appointed by Bishop T. David B. Ragg, as Deacon-in-Charge. This is the first time, that a Deacon was to serve St. Thomas' Church and it proved to be a good experience for the congregation.

The year 1980 is being marked as the 125th Anniversary of St. Thomas' Church. Several events are being planned to mark the occasion. During the week of June 1 to June 8, several services are being planned as a time of giving thanks and re-dedicating ourselves for the task that lies ahead. Many of the former clergy will be invited to join with present and former members to mark the Anniversary.

Ladies Guild Celebrates its 65th Anniversary November 2, 1954

From right to left: Dorothy Parks, Deanery President; Mrs McGivern, President of St Thomas W A; Mrs A C Calder, Diocesan President; Rev J H James

THE LADIES OF THE CHURCH

The ladies of St Thomas Church have always played a significant role in the life of the church. Originally they had little voice and no vote in Parish matters, but today this has changed. Not only are ladies members of the board, but in 1980 Mrs Nancy Larone, as Rector's Warden, became the first woman warden of St. Thomas Church.

The ladies of the Parish have always shown a great deal of enthusiasm for the work of the Church and have worked hard in support of the Church. The annual A C W Fall Turkey Supper in October and the Bazaar in November are events that members of the community and the Parish look forward to with a great deal of anticipation. On many occasions the ladies have provided tea and cake at special Parish functions. On June 19 1955, on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Ladies Guild, the ladies presented a new memorial window "The Resurrection Garden" to commemorate the faithful services of the women of the Parish. The window stands as a fitting memorial to all the ladies of the Parish, without whose support St. Thomas Church would not be where it is today.

The present Anglican Church Women (A C W) is the successor organization to the Ladies Guild and the Women's Auxiliary, which was the missionary group for the Parish. The officers of the Anglican Church Women at St. Thomas Church are: President: Mrs Frances Trotter; Secretary: Mrs. Joyce Lee; Treasurer: Mrs. Corna Snowdon.

We cannot fail to mention the Altar Guild and the ladies who so diligently and faithfully attend to the care of the altar ware, paraments and the Chancel. These ladies deserve a great deal of thanks for their work.

President: Mrs Inez Spittal Secretary: Mrs. Corna Snowdon

The Dedication of the Memorial Window — The Resurrection Garden

given by the Ladies Guild

Miss Dorothy Parke Ven. Archdeacon F G Hardy Rev S H Jones

THE CHOIR

We would be amiss if we did not mention the choir of St. Thomas Church. Throughout the years there has always been a group of men and women and children who have not only remained faithful to the choir but also have made a significant contribution to the worship of St. Thomas Church. There has always been a willing group of people who have gathered for practice on Thursday evening, under the able leadership of their choirmasters. The organist and choir master who had given the greatest number of years service was George Clarke. There is no doubt that Mr. Clarke did much to shape the music and the choirs of this Church. Perhaps we might even go so far as to say that there has been no greater devotion to the life of St. Thomas Church than from this group of people and they should be commended for their loyalty and faithfulness.

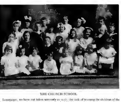
CHOIR OF ST. THOMAS CHURCH 1961

Back row
George Flewett, Bob Palm, Rev. H. Donaldson, Harry Palm, Bob Spittal, George Clarke (organist)

Third row
Peg Coombs, Mary Rowcliffe, Janet Ford, Doris Adams, Marion Flewett

Second row
Ted Southgate, Chas Coombe, Bill Rounsey, Ian Harvey, Paul Spittal, Terry Ford

First row
Ann Troutbeck, Yvonne Adams, Jane Cornish, Mary Anne McLean, Peggy Cornish
Susan Stockwell, Frances Donaldson, Miss Greenslade.



THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Sometimes, we have not taken seriously enough the task of training the children of the Church. In fact, there have been periods in the church's history, when there has not even been a Church School for the children. We however are fortunate today to have a group of women who give of their time and talents to teach the children in the Church School.

We need to recognize the importance of training children in the Scriptures and in Anglican worship as they will one day be the future members of our Church. They must never be thought of as being separate from the Church, but in fact, must be made to feel that they are a part of the Church. Thus, we make every effort to help the children feel that they are an important part of the congregation, and they DO belong.

The teachers and helpers are encouraged to upgrade their own teaching skills and knowledge of the Christian faith. We should not only then encourage them in their task, but also should give them our full support. The Church School meets at the same hour as the worship service of the Church. The Church School superintendent is Mrs. Helen Southgate.

CONCLUSION

Many people have come and gone in the life of St. Thomas' Anglican Church, over the years. Some of these people have left their marks in some more tangible way than others. Some people are but mere memories to the older members, but we must remember that St. Thomas' Church was built on the love and loyalty that these people had for the Church. They were people with a vision and were willing to do their part to make that vision a reality.

It cannot be denied that St. Thomas' Church has had its share of difficulties, down through the years. Debts have always been a burden to the Parish, as the Church is in a constant state of rebuilding and repairing. These repairs have plagued the struggling congregation and at times, the congregation has been in gratitude for certain benefactors to the Church. These persons have made significant contributions down through the years, not only by their interest, but also by alleviating some of the financial burden.

There have been times of joy and sorrow for the people of St. Thomas'; times when the congregation felt that they were going nowhere and the future looked bleak. But always, just over the horizon, new life emerged, and the people became an example for others to follow, by their endurance. The life of the Parish did indeed have its high points and its low points. But, as we said in the One Hundredth Anniversary Booklet, —

> "Now let us move forward with confidence and courage:
> Grateful for our heritage. Conscious of our responsibility
> in the spirit of glad surrender and in the companionship of
> our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, whom we serve in the
> Church Militant in the blessed hope that we may serve
> and adore him with the Church Triumphant."

This is the legacy that we inherit as we are to truly become St. Thomas' Church in Seaforth: this is the legacy we must pass on to our descendants.

ROLL OF HONOUR

"They heard the call and answered"

1914-1918

John Best
Bolls Cook †
J.H. Hodgins
Harold Deen
Clarence Garden †
Hanson George Reeves †
Frank Jackson
J. Nesbit
John Wilson
Roy Cook
George Stephenson
David Watt
Garnet McBrien

Russell Best
David Colvin
William George McCauly
Thomas Edgar †
Charles Hodge
James Henry McCauly
Secord McBrien
William Pinkney
Nurse Edith Noblin
William Smith
William Hart †
William Beattie

Edward Bateman
Percy Rolph
Harry Cresswell
James Edgar
Charles Rolph †
Harry Kerr
Ellis McLean
Henry Smith
Sidney Deen
John H. Earle
Chester McBride
Gerald Cass

1939-1945

Kenneth Adams
Edward (Ted) Southgate
Frank Archibald
William Edgar
Louis Jackson
Angus McLean
Gerald Snowdon
Jack Moore
John (Jack) Hotham
Jack Fraser
R.M. Southgate

Cecil Adams
Arthur Leyburn
Arnold Archibald †
Thomas Roe
John F. Pinkney
George Kruse
Daniel Grummett
Nurse Mae Cardwell
Fred Jackson
George Case

Arthur Fraser
R. George Parke
Harry Earle
Thomas Wilbee
Barbara Best
William (Bill) Wilbee
Earle Leyburn
James Brown
Betty Sandford
James Southgate

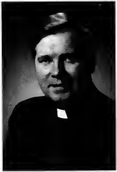
† these gave their lives in service of their country and for our freedom and liberty

Some of those who served as Wardens of St. Thomas Anglican Church

	Rector's Warden	People's Warden
1899	T E Bull	A Strong
1900	F C G Mintz	G F Belden
1902	E A Fox	W R Counter
1905	H Bullard	J Langstreth
1907-08	G E Parke	F Holmstead
1909	F Holmstead	H Edge
1910	J M Best	H Edge
1911-12	H Edge	J M Best
1940-51	Thomas Jackson	R G Parke
1952-53	Thomas Jackson	Robert Archibald
1954-55	Thomas Jackson	John Earle
1956-58	Thomas Jackson	E C Boswell
1959	Gordon Wright	E C Boswell
1960	Gordon Wright	Norman Scott
1961	Garnet Stockwell	Norman Scott
1962	L Ford	G Stockwell
1963	H Eslin	L Ford
1964	H Eslin	W E Southgate
1965	John Oldfield	W E Southgate
1966	John Oldfield	Dave Cornish
1967-70	Howard James	Robert Dinsmore
1971	Howard James	G Snowdon
1972-73	Gordon Wright	G Snowdon
1974-78	Gordon Wright	James Snowden
1979	Gordon Wright	Robert Pater
1980	Nancy Larone	Art Varley

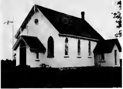
Rectors who have served the Parish of St Thomas Anglican Church

1864-1870	Rev C C Johnston
1871-1874	Rev Reginald H Starr
1874-1875	Rev W L Mills
1875-1877	Rev William Craig
1877-1879	Rev W F Campbell
1879-1880	Rev J F Freed
1880-1883	Rev Jeffrey Hill
1883-1885	Rev J Edmonds
1885-1889	Rev T W Magahy
1889-1905	Rev J W Hodgins
1905-1912	Rev John Berry
1912-1930	Rev Thomas H Brown
1930-1932	Rev J F Meyers
1932-1937	Rev Canon Appleyard
1938-1944	Rev E F D Harford
1944-1948	Rev C F L Gilbert
1949-1951	Rev T Dale Jones
1951-1953	Rev William A Jones
1953-1959	Rev J H James
1959-1967	Rev Harry Donaldson
1967-1977	Rev Stanley Sharples
1978	Rev James R Broadfoot



Present Rector

The Rev. James R. Broadfoot B.A., M.Div.



ST MARY'S DUBLIN

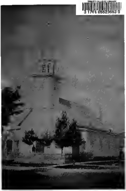
In 1851 Robert Doakin, an Anglican living in Carronbrook (now Dublin), purchased lot 15 of Concession 1 of Hibbert Township from Avery John Simton for the sum of $150. In 1868 he donated a part of the plot to the Anglican Church for a church site. The Anglicans then under their rector The Rev H Caulfield set out to build a simple white frame church on the site. In those early years the congregation was served by Canon Ephraim Patterson who was no stranger to the congregation of St Thomas Seaforth. The Church was first served by the rectors of Mitchell. At a later date the Church became part of a three-point charge with Staffa and Hensall.

Since September 1939 it became attached to St. Thomas Church in Seaforth. Some of the rectors of St. Mary's during the years were Rev H Caulfield, Rev Freeman Harding, Rev William R Evans, Rev Pierre Delorn, Rev H C Bridgman, Rev J W Hodgins, Rev Charles Malc, Rev Gilbert, Rev T Dale Jones, Rev W A Jones, Rev J H James, Rev H Donaldson and finally Rev Stanley Sheppler.

In 1971 the congregation had dwindled to the point where it was no longer possible to keep it open. Regrettably the Church was closed, the building was removed and finally in 1979 the property was sold. Much of the silverware and altar ware were deposited to the care and keeping of St. Thomas Church where it is on display today.

It is fitting that since Robert Doakin had such an interest in St. Mary's Dublin that the history of this little church should end in St. Thomas Church where Mr. Doakin also had an interest and in which the chancel window is dedicated to his memory.

TRINITY COLLEGE LIBRARY
3 1761 05523663 0



Old Church

An Historical Sketch
of
ST THOMAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH,
Seaforth, Ontario
1855-1980

by
The Rev James R Broadfoot

Interior of St Thomas' Anglican Church
(Photo courtesy of Mr Gordon Wright)

St Thomas' Anglican church corner of Jarvis and John Streets, Seaforth, Ontario
"Serving Seaforth and Community since 1855"

NIN/WEC

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Here Indeed we groan, and long to put on our heavenly dwelling, so that by putting it on we may not be found naked.

II Corinthians 5: 1-3

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

We do not know what deliberations were made nor do the records show how our forefathers choose or arrived at the name "St Thomas" for the Anglican Church in Seaforth. Of one thing we are certain. The name was well chosen for this Parish Church.

St Thomas is mentioned in all of the four Gospels as being one of the disciples of Jesus. In the Gospel of St John, where his name is translated as "Didymus" (a Greek word meaning "Twin") he appears in three separate episodes. In the first instance (John 11 16) Thomas shows his zeal for Jesus as he walks along the way to Bethany by offering to die with him. In the second instance (John 14 5) Thomas disrupts a discourse with Jesus by asking, "*Lord we do not know where you are going how can we know the way?*" Then lastly (John 20 25 28) he doubts the Resurrection of Jesus until he is able to touch the very wounds of the Risen Christ. After Christ's appearance he confesses his faith in the words "*My Lord and my God*" and thus he was the first to explicity confess the Divinity of Jesus Christ. According to an early tradition mentioned by one of the Early Church Fathers – Eusebius – and by others, Thomas was supposed to have evangelized the Parthians. By another tradition coming from the Syrians Thomas was supposed to have brought the Gospel of Jesus Christ to India where he was martyred. The Syrian Christians to this day call themselves "Christians of St Thomas" and strongly defend the tradition that they were evangelized by the Apostle who was in later years martyred and buried at Mylapore near Madras. The "Thomas Cross" an ancient stone of either the 6th or 8th Century with a problematic inscription is preserved in the Church which marks the place where his body is said to be resting. In the Anglican Church St Thomas Day is a Feast Day which is observed December 21 of each year. Several writings are claimed to have been written by him and are to be found in the Apocryphal.

OUR ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Bless us O Lord in this day of opportunity
and in this year of celebration and thanksgiving.

May our response to your calling today
be full and abundant glad and free

We give thanks to you for the founding members of
this Parish Church of St Thomas' Seaforth —
For their vision obedience and their enterprise
for their work of faith their labour of love

And as those who have gone before us
hand us the torch to carry into the future
May we be aware of where the real needs of mankind lie

Fashion our minds to discover your truth
Strengthen our wills to do your work
Purify our hearts that we may see your face
And fulfill our fellowship in service and praise

That by your grace and mercy you may be known
to us and to our children
To our neighbours and to the world

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

PRELUDE

This brief historical sketch of St Thomas Anglican Church Seaforth is written to the Glory of God and is dedicated to all those men and women who in years past had a vision of an Anglican Church in the community of Seaforth and who through much labour and hardship have carved out of the wilderness the beautiful house of worship which we enjoy today

In this year of 1980 we celebrate our 125th Anniversary of the founding of the Anglican Church in this community It is then fitting, that we should record the names of those men and women who have built this Church and record the events that have left us a legacy of which we can be proud As these people of the past have given us the torch to carry into the future so we move ahead with a renewed vision of what the Anglican Church means to us who live in this community

The author is indebted to so many people for the details of this history of St Thomas Church First and foremost I am indebted to the late Mr Richmond G Parke, whose history of St Thomas Church as recorded in the Vestry Book was used as the basis for this historical account to Mrs Nancy Larone and Mrs Vivienne Newnham whose invaluable assistance was not only necessary for this undertaking but very much appreciated Also I am grateful to Ken Larone for his help and suggestions in reading the manuscript and to the many members of the congregation who have offered comments and remarks as they remember many of the events of St Thomas Church which are recorded in this book

Last but not least I am forever grateful to my wife Marion who so painstakingly read and read typed and edited the manuscript prior to the printing of this book Without patience and understanding it would not have been possible for me to write this history

BACKGROUND

As I attempt to write the history of St Thomas Anglican Church in Seaforth I often wished that I had more "raw" material at my disposal so that I could write more of a portrait of St Thomas Church rather than a chronological history of events Even now as I write more and more documents and other related materials are being made available to me but time doesn't allow me to examine them for inclusion in the history at this time I have tried as nearly as possible then to use the resources at my disposal to write a true and accurate account of the history of St Thomas Church Therefore, what I have written must be thought of as an imperfect sketch of St Thomas' Church and maybe one day someone will be able to take up the challenge and will be able to re-write a more detailed account

Records are cold and impersonal and unless one knows or is able to read between the lines we are unable to truly write the history of St Thomas Church From the yellowing and torn pages of Church records from the local newspapers and other histories written of this area by such persons as Isobelle Campbell and James Scott we are at best only able to get a glimpse of the chronological history of the life of St Thomas' Church

The members of St Thomas Church have so much for which to rejoice and to give thanks to God Since the Church was originally founded and built, many changes have taken place and many lovely things have been added Memorials of one kind or another have been dedicated to the glory of God in memory of loved ones who have served the Church and for the worship of the people of God We are reminded of the words of St Paul *that in the Lord their labour has not been in vain* (I Corinthians 15 58) and that here people have continued to come to worship God to sing their praises to God to offer their gifts to God and to be strengthened in the challenges that face them in their daily life They have continued to come to the Church to seek the forgiveness of their sins to hear the Word of God and to receive the Sacraments of the Church

Many of those who left their homes families and friends in the "old country" sailed across the ocean and came to Upper Canada in those early years, would not know the hardships that lay ahead of them

THE EARLY YEARS

Conditions of life were quite simple, often primitive by today's standards. There were no electric lights, no telephones, no motor cars - none of those conveniences that we take so much for granted today. Other modern marvels such as moving pictures, radio and television were beyond man's wildest imagination. Whatever roads existed in the frontiers of Canada were not paved, but were merely paths cut through the forests. From Spring to Autumn the roads were cut deep with dangerous ruts. In the Summer the dust was almost unbearable, and in the Winter the roads were blocked with snow for weeks at a time, and settlements were isolated. Yet the people lived busy happy lives and the Church became the focus of many of the activities of the community. These early settlers worked very hard to carve for themselves a new life in the wilderness.

The Anglicans that settled in Canada were of the Church of England, and were still ethnically British. In his book, Bishop Laxton wrote that the Church of England in Canada "began as a priveledged colonial church, able to do a splendid chaplaincy job but inadequate for the frontier pressure of the new land. In the larger centres, the Anglicans ministered to the traditional Anglicans, founded universities and schools, influenced and sometimes directed government policy, and left people of the small settlements to the Methodists. The itinerant preacher on horseback ran rings around the dignified Anglican blackcoat." While this statement may be generally true, there were undoubtedly exceptions as surely this must have been the case with St. Thomas', Seaforth. I believe the story of St. Thomas speaks for itself in that regard.

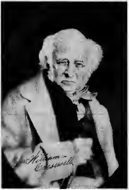
The Huron County area was sparsely populated and largely settled by Scots, who were for the most part largely Presbyterian in belief, and who were spoken of as the "praying people". There were a few Irish families. Thus it is not surprising, that the Presbyterian Church should be the first church in the area.

THE DIOCESE

On July 27, 1839, the Diocese of Quebec, which extended into Ontario, obtained Letters Patent to establish the Diocese of Toronto, with the See City being Toronto. The Archbishop of York, The Rev. Dr. John Strachan, was appointed its first bishop. Bishop Strachan was to play an important part in the development of the Church of England in Huron County and more particularly St. Thomas' Church in Seaforth.

There were many clergy coming into Ontario who were in need of churches. Bishop Strachan was sympathetic to the needs of these clergy, many of whom arrived from England. Also, he was well aware of the many poor and struggling congregations in the wilderness of Ontario. Bishop Strachan was able to make an urgent appeal to the British public and raise money to assist the struggling congregations. It was during this period that the Canadian Anglicans were to build some of their most beautiful churches.

The Grand Old Man"
of
St Thomas Church



The Rev William Cresswell

Rev Cresswell was born at Fairfield House near Manchester England in the year 1791 He was a graduate of Magdelene College Cambridge England He was the Master of Westham Grammar School which is connected with Kings College London He came to Canada in the early 1850 s and settled at Harpurhey He began his work as Rector of St Thomas Church in 1854 under the license from Bishop John Strachan of Toronto He died June 19 1868 and is buried at the little cemetary in Harpurhey

THE BEGINNING

In 1839 the Rev. E.L. Ellwood succeeded Rev. H. Francis Campbell as the Rector of St. George's, Goderich, and the missionary priest for all of Huron County, which included the communities of Harpurhey and Egmondville. Rev. Ellwood was a very portly person with a strong sense of humour, who travelled extensively throughout the area.

In writing the history of the planting of the Church in Seaforth and vicinity, we must focus our attention on an Englishman by the name of Rev. William Cresswell, who was the first clergyman to take up full time clerical duties in the area. Under the guidance of this old English grammar school master, Rev. Cresswell, the present Seaforth Anglican congregation was founded.

Rev. Cresswell was born near Manchester, England, in 1791 and came to Canada in the early 50's, with his nephews Edwin and William. The nephews settled on farms in Tuckersmith Township, while Rev. Cresswell took up residence near Harpurhey. Harpurhey was a thriving village of over five hundred people, while the area between Harpurhey and Egmondville (which was later to become the Town of Seaforth) was the Gr...de Bond Swamp. On his arrival in the area, he found that there was not an organized Anglican congregation. Backed by his spirited determination, the English schoolmaster took it upon himself to organize the Anglicans in the area into an active Church group. He was assisted by the Rev. Ephraim Patterson, a missionary priest from Stratford, later a Canon in the Diocese of Huron, who presumably prepared the candidates for confirmation. In the *Church*, a newspaper of the Diocese of Toronto, the schedule of Bishop Strachan included a visit to Harpurhey on August 1, 1854. It would appear from a letter of Bishop Strachan dated August 15, 1854, that Rev. Cresswell had not identified himself.

> "I remember observing you in the small congregation of Harpurhey and thought you appeared like a clergyman, but as you did not make yourself known, and Mr. Patterson made no mention of you till we had gone to Mitchell, I thought at the time that you had no wish to be noticed. This is regretted because I could have inspected your letters of Orders and Testimonials. If your papers are regular, of which I have no doubt, I should be glad to license you to do any duty that your strength will admit in the destitute neighbourhood in which you reside. I am sorry to add that I have no funds at my disposal to remunerate you for any such service.
>
> John Toronto"

A follow-up letter dated September 6, 1854, gave Rev. Cresswell his license to be priest of the Anglican congregation of Harpurhey and parts adjacent. Rev. Cresswell then proceeded to unite all Anglican families in the area. He then began to conduct services of worship and administer Holy Communion to the congregation which met in Knox Hall, Harpurhey.

Rev. Cresswell was a man who ministered to all alike, and must be given credit for doing the pioneer work that prepared the way for a future Church. A very good and happy relationship developed between the people of the Parish and their new Rector. He was in many ways what we would call an outstanding man. In 1860 a soiree was held to raise funds for a library in the Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Cresswell was present. As was reported in The History of the Egmondville Presbyterian Church, "the latter gentleman, an English Church clergyman and an uncle to Edwin Cresswell, read a paper on the benefits of a good library."

He was the pioneer who opened the Anglican Church for the area. He did in this area what many ministers were doing in other areas, that was to be the missionary priest to the scattered Anglican families throughout the area. His personal life was a great benefit to the Church in the way he carried out his pastoral duties. Like many of the clergy of his day, he had his own small farm, from which he gained his own livelihood.

From the Huron County Historical Notes Volume 9 page 15 we read

> "The Cresswell family from earliest times took a creative part in community affairs in particular their church and charitable efforts. The Cresswells were staunch supporters in every respect in their church and their distinctive phaeton with fringe on the top or fancy cutter complete with chimes and fur rugs in front of church or rectory was a familiar sight for many years

In Richmond Parke's "St Thomas Church Highlights" he writes every church seems to have a grand old man as I look at a picture of Mr Cresswell with white hair and a striking face it is not difficult to see him as the grand old man of St Thomas Church, Seaforth" Rev Cresswell carried on his work for many years The original first Register is still in existence and is in the beautiful handwriting of Rev Cresswell The following notations are to be found in the Register

> "Correct and true copy of the Register of Baptisms solemnized by me undersigned W Cresswell licensed to discharge clerical duties at Harpurhey and parts adjacent (formerly included in the Diocese of Toronto) by John Lord Bishop of Toronto"

First Baptism

> Harriet Ching Van Egmond of Egmondville
> - daughter of William Anthony and Caroline Van Egmond
> baptized on January 3 1855

In the first year (1855) there were twenty-five baptisms

First Funeral

> On January 11 1855 Margaret Lowe of Harpurhey was buried at Harpurhey Cemetery There are no details as to who this woman was

First Marriage

> On June 26 1857 Ernest Glowe of Clinton to Marie Vagten of Harpurhey

His register continues to 1866 Rev Cresswell was called to rest on June 18 1868 and is buried in the family plot in the little cemetery of Harpurhey

PLANS FOR THE FIRST CHURCH

There was an enthusiastic group of men under the leadership of their Rector – Rev Cresswell who felt that a church should be built to meet the needs of the worshipping community They were to become the original Subscribers who would take upon themselves the risks that go with a new venture This really took faith for they had to face the challenge bearing in mind that funds were extremely limited It also meant that once they began there was no turning back The future of this growing congregation lay ahead It would mean considerable sacrifice on their part - this they would do gladly and willingly A meeting was held to plan and organize the building of a church and the site chosen was to be in the Village of Harpurhey The meeting records that everyone was in favour of proceeding with the erection of a church and a financial campaign was begun to raise the necessary funds The following is the record of the meeting as recorded in the minutes

> "In pursuance of a Public Notice a meeting of the inhabitants of Tuckersmith and its vicinity was held at the School House at Harpurhey on the day 1855 for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means of raising a fund for the erection of an Episcopal Church in Harpurhey of the United Church of England and Ireland
>
> Mr Chalk was called to the chair When it was moved by the Rev Mr Patterson and seconded by the Rev W Cresswell
> Resolved
> 1 That this meeting is of opinion that it is highly desireable to concert measures for building a Church at Harpurhey in connexion with the United Church of England and Ireland

Moved by the Rev Mr Patterson and seconded by Mr A Meyer and
2 Resolved that a committee be now appointed to carry out this object into effect Carried

Moved by Mr Francis Fowler and seconded by Mr Henry Cresswell and
3 Resolved That the following Gentlemen be now requested to constitute the Committee with power to add to the number and that any five members of the Committee shall constitute a Quorum Carried

William Chalk esq
Mr Lewis Meyer
Mr Adolphus Meyer
Mr Francis Fowler
Mr John Fowler
Mr Johnathan Carter
Mr Richard Cliff
Mr Render
Mr C.L. Van Egmond
Mr Edwin Cresswell
Mr George Thompson

Moved by Mr Fowler and seconded by Mr Meyer and
4 Resolved That the Committee do now appoint Mr Charles Cresswell to act as secretary to Treasurer Carried

Moved by Mr Render and seconded by Mr Beny and
5 Resolved That a List of Subscriptions payable to the Treasurer be now opened Carried

Moved by Mr L Meyer and seconded by Mr Edwin Cresswell and
6 Resolved That the cordial and unanimous thanks of this meeting are given to the Rev Mr Patterson for his attendance at this meeting and for the great interest he has taken on former occasions in the promotion of objects sharing in view the religious and moral good of the neighbourhood Carried

Moved by Mr Edwin Cresswell and seconded by Mr Louis Meyer and
7 Resolved That this meeting thankfully acknowledge the support given to its object by his Lordship The Bishop of Toronto and the generous donation of the Hon William Cayley and that a copy of the proceedings be sent to the Bishop & Honorable W Cayley Carried

The Rev W Cresswell then addressed the meeting to the following effect

In rising to move the resolution which I have been requested to propose I may be permitted to state that I have received a letter from the Honorable W Cayley enclosing a donation of Ten Pounds in aid of the object which we have met to promote I have also received a letter from his Lordship the Bishop of Toronto permitting me to place his name on the subscription list for five pounds to be paid as soon as the building is covered in I have further the pleasure of informing the meeting that a grant of land sufficient for the object we have in mind has been most generously volunteered by Mr Adolphus Meyer A few friends of ours in England have authorized me to say that we may calculate upon their assistance to the extent of Seventy Pounds

Moved by the Revd Mr. Patterson and seconded by Mr. A. Meyers and
8. Resolved that the following be the heading attached to the Subscription List.

We the undersigned do bind ourselves to pay to the Treasurer the sum placed opposite our respective names one half on the 1rst day of Oct. 1855 and the remainder by the 1rst day of Feb. 1856. Said sums to be appropriated to the building of an Episcopal Church in Harpurhey of the United Church of England & Ireland.

The Lord Bishop of Toronto	£ 5
The Honorable William Cayley	£10
Subscription from England	£20
Dr. William Chalk	£ 5
L. Meyer	£ 5
A. Meyer	£ 5
Francis Fowler	£ 5
Richard Cluff	£ 5
C.L. Van Egmond	£ 3
A. Van Egmond	£ 2
Wm. Van Egmond	£ 3
William Cresswell	£ 2

59 other subscribers gave for a total of £159 s5 d6

The records show that all subscriptions were paid in British currency - pounds, shilings and pence. It seemed like everything was now in order to proceed, so the lumber, bricks and other materials were ordered. But, before delivery was to be made, the whole scheme fell through. There is nothing in the records to indicate what happened, so we must speculate from the history of the community as to what did happen. With the coming of the railway, the whole area was to undergo a drastic change.

DECLINE OF HARPURHEY

The Buffalo, Brantford, and Goderich Railway was opening a line through the area, and a rivalry developed between the two communities of Egmondville and Harpurhey as to who would get the station. The Railway Company finally settled on a site at the south end of the growing village of Seaforth, which was a real blow to Harpurhey. As a result, within a very short period, Seaforth started to grow faster than the surrounding communities, especially Harpurhey. Many of the merchants and the businessmen moved to Seaforth, finally abandoning the Village of Harpurhey. With the coming of the railroad to Seaforth, and the shift of business and population, it left no doubt as to where the eventual site of the church would be.

DIOCESE OF HURON

In 1857, thirteen of the western counties in Ontario, including Huron County, which had been part of the Diocese of Toronto, were now made into a new Diocese, which was to be called the Diocese of Huron. Bishop Strachan then summoned all the clergy and lay delegates to St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ont., on Wednesday July 8, 1857 for the purpose of "electing a fit person to be consecrated their first bishop." What was so unusual about this procedure was that this was the first time that a bishop of the Church of England should ever be elected. All previous bishops were appointed by the King or Queen of England, on the advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The man that was chosen and elected was Benjamin Cronyn, who was then consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Huron, in a ceremony held in the chapel of Lambeth Palace on

October 28, 1857. He immediately set out to organize the Churches in the Diocese, which was no easy undertaking.

NEW BEGINNINGS

By 1859, Seaforth had become a place of greater importance and the Anglicans in the area began to look forward to the time when they might have a building of their own, where they might worship the God of their fathers in their own way. However, money was scarce and the difficulties were many. Through the influence of Rev. William Cresswell, we find such men as Rev. James Carmichael, then the Rector of St. Paul's Church, Clinton, who was later to become the Bishop of Montreal and the Rev. T.C. Des Barres coming to the aid of this struggling congregation. These clergymen were able to conduct regular Sunday services, holding them in the Carmichael Hotel which is now known as the Royal Apartments and the Downey Hall, now known as the Queens Hotel. These men continued providing church services for three years. Then Rev. John Ridley, the Rector of Mitchell began to conduct the services, again using the Carmichael Hotel in the winter, and in the summer, they used Mr. Thomas Adams' barn which was situated on Goderich Street. The Ven. Archdeacon Elwood of Goderich also helped with the occasional service.

By 1862, the question of building a permanent Church building was taken up in earnest and it was decided that a meeting should be held to decide the future of the congregation. A group of prominent men of the community, who were interested in building the church, met and among them were the following:

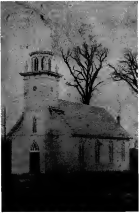
Thomas Adams, E. Cresswell, August Van Egmond, A. Strong, Joseph Fowler, James H. Benson, Edwin Hickson, Dr. Smith, James Brown, Andrew Archibald, John Oldfield, Ralph Thompson, Wm. Oldfield, Dr. Tracey, Leonard Sholdice, Captain Ord, S. Scarlett, J.R. Bull, George Jackson, Frances Case, George Sewell, George Case & W.J. Cleary.

These men met with a determined purpose in mind and were unanimous that a Church should be built, which would, for the time being, consist only of a nave, the central part of the building. The entrance would consist of a tower and a steeple and construction was to begin as soon as possible. The site on which the Church was built was donated to the Anglicans by Mr. Edgar Jarvis and is described as:

> "Part of Lot 11 in the First Concession south of the Huron Road in the Township of Tuckersmith, according to the plans laid down and shown by Andrew Bay, Squire, Provincial Land Surveyor and filed in the Registry Office for the county of Huron, 17 April, 1863 and known and described thereon as Lot N093 on the west side of Jarvis Street."

The original deed, in the original handwriting is lodged in the Office of the Diocese of Huron in the city of London.

It was during this year of 1862, that the Rev. James Carmichael, ordained in 1859, Rector of Clinton, was to take a more active role in the affairs of St. Thomas', Seaforth. Rev. Carmichael was appointed by Bishop Cronyn to do the mission work in the area.



This picture appears to be a picture of St Thomas' Church under construction in 1863 Note the tower is not yet complete and there is no sidewalk to the main entrance Also the yard is scattered with lumber A bush surrounds the Church and a barn like structure may be found to the right rear of the building A man stands at the front right of the photo

Photo courtesy
National Photography Collection
Public Archives Canada

In a newspaper article of March 17 1877 we read "The Church is actually a strange mixture of Gothic and Greek Architecture Another building of a similar style was the first Presbyterian Church in Clinton which later became the Church building for the Roman Catholics in Clinton "The inside of the church was roughly finished and the seating consisted of plain boards on blocks brought from Mr Thomas Adams bush Much of the work was done by the men of the congregation and the people were proud of their new Church for at long last their dream became a reality Apparently a bell for the Church was placed in the tower and was rung five times a day for the public's convenience

In this year of 1863 another meeting was held to dispose of the funds collected in 1855 for the building of the Church in Harpurhey The following are the minutes of that meeting

> "In pursuance of a public notice of a meeting of the Subscribers of Tuckersmith and McKillop was held at Knox Hall on the 6th day of January 1863 for the purpose of disposing of a certain sum of money raised and collected in consequence of a meeting held for the raising of an Episcopal Church in Harpurhey of the United Church of England and Ireland
>
> Mr Wm Fowler was asked to the chair and Mr A Meyers to be Secretary Moved by Mr Francis Fowler and seconded by L Meyer that those parties who paid their full subscription have to receive the one half of the amount subscribed and go on the equal shares for the balance of the Subscriptions with those who only paid a share of their subscription Carried.
>
> Moved by Mr Ed Cash and seconded by Mr L Meyer that a dividend of 35 cents to the dollar be paid to each subscriber according to the money paid
> Carried

There were 15 subscribers who received a total of $28 78

In 1864 the Rev C C Johnston was appointed by Bishop Cronyn to be the permanent Rector of St Thomas Church He continued with his ministry at St Thomas until the end of 1870 Many interesting events took place during his ministry and we have recorded two highlights of 1869 In January 1869 the annual Missionary Society held a meeting in St Thomas Church in which a "respectable and attentive audience listened with much pleasure to certain addresses by Revs Johnson (chairman) Bancroft and Caulfield as well as Drs Schnttie and Tibetts which set forth the claims of the missionary cause A very respectable collection was taken up in aid of the missionary society " This meeting was authorized by the Bishop and the clergy appointed by the Bishop to speak for the cause of the Missionary Society

Then in April 1869 the little Church in the Village of Carronbrook (which was later to become Dublin) was opened by the Rev Shem Du Bourdieu Rector of Clinton Rev Shem Du Bourdieu also preached "two excellent sermons in St Thomas Episcopal Church" and afterwards "a respectable collection was taken up to reduce the liabilities of the Church

On July 9 1869 a company of Indians from the Six Nations Indian Reserve in Brantford under the leadership of Chief Johnston gave an excellent performance for the benefit of the Church While they were in Seaforth they were entertained by Mr & Mrs Ludwig Meyer of Thorton Hall The following is the report from the newspaper

> "The concert in aid of St Thomas Church by the Indian Warblers and Seaforth Amateurs came off as announced in Sharpe's Hall on the 7th instant Ladies and Gentlemen came from a distance arriving early possessed the best seats and most of our townspeople arriving late were literally crowded out Rev C C Johnson pronounced a eulogy on his red brethren thanking the audience for their attendance requested to have no stomping of feet or whistling and apologized for the absence of Mr Herchimer Indian The Indians male and female delighted the audience and were repeatedly encored The finishing stroke of the performance was the exquisite performance of Miss McDonald of Irishtown on the piano and by Mr Collins on the violin "

The following is a record of the Annual Vestry Meeting held April 18 1870, which may be of interest

> 'The Rev Mr Johnston after having opened the meeting with prayer nominated Mr J H Denson as his churchwarden, the vestry then unanimously elected Mr Strong as Warden for the Parish It was then moved by Mr Benson seconded by Mr Bull that the annual statement of the labours of the Rev Mr Johnston and affairs of the Parish be received and that this vestry return the Rev Mr Johnson their sincere thanks for his very valuable report Carried
>
> Messrs Holmstead and Parker were appointed lay delegates to the Synod The vestry adjourned to meet again on Monday evening May 2 at 7 30
>
> J P Bull Vestry Clerk

It would appear from this report that vestry meetings were short and very straightforward

In 1870 the Rev Reginald Starr was appointed the next Rector of St. Thomas' He remained until 1874 During his incumbancy the chancel was added (1872) to the Church The next Rector to serve the Church was The Rev W L Mills, who later became the Bishop of the Diocese of Ontario His ministry in St Thomas' Church was quite short and he was followed by Rev William Craig, who came from St John's Anglican Church in Montreal Rev Craig remained from 1875 1877 It was during this time, that there are recorded entries in the Vestry Book showing that regular services were being conducted at Kinburn first in the evening and then at a later date in the afternoon There was an average of 25-30 people attending the Services at Kinburn but there is no record of where the services were held

In September 1877 Rev William R Campbell was appointed the new Rector It was at this time (1878) that the congregation had expanded to the point where two fourteen foot wings were added to the north and south sides to give a greater seating capacity The ceiling and roof of the church were also raised to its present height The raising of the roof added greatly to the general appearance of the Church and gave it an entirely new dimension The average attendance for Sunday Services in 1878 had reached 121 souls

In November 1879 Rev J F Pinard became the new Rector and in early 1880 at the final service of Rev Pinard 220 people packed the Church to hear his farewell address Once again the people of St Thomas congregation were looking for another rector

In April 1880 Rev Jeffrey Hill took charge of the services and he remained until May 1883 He must have had a busy ministry as we read in the Parish Records that he conducted services in Dublin on Sunday afternoons which were usually attended by 75 100 people and also services in Kinburn and Staffa which were also well attended

In May 1883 Rev J Edmonds became the new Rector and he remained until April 1887 An indication of the steady growth of the Parish and the progress it was making is to be seen in the purchase of the building to become the Parish Hall The building which the congregation purchased in 1885 was formerly the church of the Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1864 It was originally erected on 37 John Street and measured 26 x 43 with a gallery and a seating capacity of 75 It was sold to St. Thomas Church and moved to its present location where it is now used by the Sunday School In 1885 the total attendance for the year was 11 284 with an average attendance of 96 persons Total receipts in that year reached a new high of $469 74 We also noted from the records that in 1887 there were 13 cottage services during lent with an average attendance of 21

By the spring of 1887 the congregation was once again looking for another rector and on April 24 1887 the Rev T W Magahy took his place as the new rector Again this was to be a short incumbency and in 1889 another new rector by the name of Rev. J.W. Hodgins was appointed. His term was the longest, to date, as he remained 16 years until March 1905. In 1890, the first memorial window was placed in the church and was to be the Donkin Memorial Window, placed in the chancel of the church. It was given in memory of Robert and Anna Donkin. In 1892 there were twenty-nine young candidates confirmed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Huron, Bishop Maurice S. Baldwin. In 1895 the pipe organ was installed in the Church by Lye and Sons of Toronto, at a cost of $1190.00. It was a heavy financial burden for the congregation, but greatly added to the worship of the people. On May 28, the Sunday School convention for the Deanery was held at St. Thomas Church and at the evening service there were over 250 people present. On December 2, 1898 a special service was held at 8:00 p.m. at which the Bishop of Huron, Maurice Baldwin, was present with eleven of the clergy from the Deanery. There were over 350 people present for this service. On Monday Jan. 1, 1899, the congregation gathered for the funeral service to bid farewell to one of the most loved and outstanding members, Mr. St. Clair Simpson. He had served as a Churchwarden for many years. Many people still remember the great contribution that Mr. Simpson made to St. Thomas Church during his lifetime and over 400 people were present to pay their respects at his funeral service. The Memorial window "Jesus Blessing the Children" – was put in the church in 1905 to honor his memory.

In 1902 the next great undertaking was the completion of the Sunday School Building with the addition of the kitchen and the vestry robes for the Church. This was no easy undertaking and upon completion of the work, there was great joy and thanksgiving for a job well done. Also on May 18, of this same year, the memorial window (David playing the harp) of Thomas O. Kemp, created by Robert McCausland of Toronto, was unveiled with 152 people present for the service. Mr. Thomas O. Kemp was superintendent of St. Thomas' Church Sunday School for many years. The window was donated by former students of the Sunday School and friends of Mr. Kemp. During the days of June 22 to June 29, prayers were said daily in the Church as in other Anglican Churches for the recovery of the King of England who was gravely ill. There were a total of 31 celebrations of Holy Communion this year. The average attendance for all services was 124, and total revenues for the year 1902 amounted to $1469.00. This was quite a sizeable amount for that year.

At Easter, in 1903, the brass cross on the Altar was given by the St. Martins Ward of the Canadian Bible Society in Toronto.

On March 26, 1905 after a long and fruitful ministry, Rev. J.W. Hodgins gave a farewell address to a congregation of 375 people. On April 2, the Rev. John Berry assumed his position as the new rector of St. Thomas. He was to minister to the needs of the congregation for over seven years. During this year, the Ellen Holmstead Memorial Window, created by the N.T. Lyon Co., was placed and dedicated.

Picture of a Church Picnic in early 1900's

(Rev. Berry Rector)

PEWHOLDERS

The major source of income for the Church in the early years, was from pew rentals. The pews were appropriated and rented by the families of the Parish. The pew holders established their place in the Church, which families held for years and they opposed any changes. The Rector's pew was number 33. There were often problems associated with pew rentals and often visitors were embarrassed when they occupied seats belonging to someone else. In 1869 there were 60 pew holders paying rent between $2.50 and $5.00 a year. By 1880 this had risen to 88 and the rent had doubled. By 1910 there were only 16 pew holders as the envelope system had been introduced to replace rentals of pews. The last pew rental was paid in 1913.

It was found that the rents had to be collected and there were often problems associated with collecting rent. People were often casual about paying the rent. Therefore, a voluntary system of giving was introduced through the envelope system. In the early beginnings, there were 25 envelope holders, which proved not only beneficial for the Parish, in that there were less problems, but it brought in more money to the Parish. It would appear that as the envelope system replaced the pew rentals, the understanding was that people would contribute at least as much as the pew rent, whereas in fact, people gave more than the rents. It was a new responsibility to be assumed by the Wardens and proved a most successful venture. People today, still support the Church through their givings in the envelope system.

THE CHURCH EXPANDS

On January 5, 1913, Rev. John Berry preached his final sermon, and on January 12, The Rev. Thomas H. Brown became the new Rector of St. Thomas Church. Rev. Brown was to become a very active worker all through the Parish and the community. He was forever searching out ways of improving the Church property so as to give everything a prosperous-looking appearance. Through his guidance, and the various activities of the Parish, the Parish was able to pay off the mortgage on the Rectory. At a special social evening held in the Parish Hall, the mortgage was burned and the Church was once more out of debt.

Rev. Brown was to have the longest encumbancy in the Parish, lasting over eighteen years, from 1912 to 1930. His ministry marks a period of consolidation and advancement for the Parish. Under his leadership, gowns (Surplices?) were purchased for the choir and were worn for the first time on Palm Sunday, 1913. It was also during this year that a passageway was built between the Church and the Parish Hall, joining the two buildings. It was not long before the choir was to walk into the chancel of the Church on a new carpet presented by the Altar Guild. Also, the new brass Communion Rail, a gift of Mr. H. B. Edge was presented in loving memory of his wife.

In 1917, the electric blower for the organ was added. Also, a plot of land, about one quarter of an acre, on the west side of the Church, on John St., was given to the Church by Miss E. Cresswell, who had on so many occasions given generously to the Church. This plot of land was given to be used for recreational purposes, and part was used as a garden for the Rector.

During the year 1919, St. Thomas' Church celebrated its Diamond Jubilee with three special services under the direction of the Rector - Rev. Brown. Bishop David Williams was the guest preacher, and over 250 people were present for the church supper. The first Anniversary Booklet was published, but very few copies of this booklet remain in circulation. By 1919, there were 55 families and 21 adults on the rolls for a total of 210 souls.

The next major event in the life of St. Thomas' Church occurs in 1921, during an eight day mission which was being held in the Church. The mission, conducted by Rev. W. H. Roberts, commenced on Sunday, March 13, and concluded on March 20, and was enthusiastically received. Just as the bell was about to be rung for the Tuesday evening service, the Tower was struck by lightning during a violent thunderstorm. The tower caught on fire, and was almost completely destroyed. A great deal of damage was also done to the front of the Church. Although there were about 57 people in the Church at the time, no one was injured. The service then proceeded. The Rector, Rev. Brown, offered a prayer of Thanksgiving for the wonderful goodness of God, for sparing all those who were present, and for sparing the rest of the building. By April 1921, the tower was rebuilt at a cost of $375.00, and the work was completed by Mr. H. Edge, one of the parishioners. The Church was also repainted at a cost of $153.00, the money being provided by Mr. Ralph Cresswell. Lightning rods were then placed on the Church and Sunday School buildings. The cost of this project was borne by Mr. Harry Cresswell.

On the Second Sunday after Easter, April 30, 1922, the beautiful altar which presently adorns the Sanctuary in the Church was dedicated at the Service of Mattins. It was presented to St. Thomas' Church by the children of Mrs. Adaline Best, in her memory, and for her contributions to St. Thomas' Church.

In 1923, after many years of being troubled with the old heating system, a new system was finaly installed It was a Kelsie generator furnace which gave a great deal of satisfaction and supplied a good heat It was installed by Mr William Smithers, and Mr John Cummings

Front of St Thomas Anglican Church showing the three entrances

During 1923 it was decided that the seating arrangements should be changed to facilitate a centre aisle The seats were removed and altered to allow a middle aisle in the centre of the Church The pews and the interior of the Church were painted The side doors were removed from the wings and the new centre doors were installed which gave a much improved appearance to the front of the Church It is reported that all on the work was done by members of the congregation in the evenings and in their spare time It was a tremendous contribution made by the members of the Parish at a great saving to the Church The following persons should be mentioned as those who undertook most of the work Messrs H Edge, Wm Smithers, H Johnston William Bascher William Deem James Grummett, L Jackson and Thomas Jackson

Water from the town was brought into the Church from the town mains and filled a great need for the Church. This work was paid for by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Church. At one point in time, the Church was surrounded by a wooden fence which was given by Miss Emily Cresswell. Over the years it gradually deteriorated and was finally destroyed leaving the grounds open to the street.

In 1924 the Town of Seaforth held its Old Boys' Reunion which was also marked with special services in St. Thomas' Church.

In September 1925 the small brass vases for the altar were given to the Church in memory of Henry J. and Emily Pritchard, by their daughters.

In 1926 Mr. H. Edge presented a window for the inside wall of the tower. The window was of leaded art glass and came out of one of the homes in Seaforth. The men's class raised the lights in the centre aisle as well as installing a new lamp for the pulpit.

On January 6, 1929, Epiphany Sunday, all the churches in the community were closed by Order of the Board of Health. Rev. Brown in the Vestry Book noted that it was a "very tough day" for the community.

On April 27, 1930 St. Thomas Church was filled to overflowing, as over five hundred people turned out to bid farewell to its Rector Rev. Thomas Brown, who resigned after eighteen years of ministry in the community. He exceeded the encumbancy of Rev. Hodgins by two years. Rev. Brown retired from active ministry and went to Toronto to live with his family.

The bishop then appointed Rev. J. F. Meyers as rector of St. Thomas. His was a ministry that was to last less than two years, for in 1932 the Bishop appointed Rev. Meyers assistant to the Dean at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ontario.

Next on the scene was the Rev. Canon Edward Appleyard, who was appointed Rector of St. Thomas in 1932. Canon Appleyard was very active in all the Parish work and his genial disposition made him a friend of everyone. During his encumbancy (Dec. 1936) a new steam heating system was installed. Most of the work was under the able direction of the people's Warden - Mr. R. G. Parke. Mr. Parke was largely responsible for this effort and deserves much of the credit for the planning and the work. It cost $1165.00 to purchase the new heating system and the money was raised within twelve months. Canon Appleyard resigned as rector in 1937 due to ill health, then retired from active ministry and moved to Hamilton, Ontario to live out his retirement.

On January 15, 1938 the Parish welcomed Rev. R. P. D. Hurford, D.D. as their new rector who was appointed by Bishop Seager. Dr. Hurford remained at St. Thomas until August 1944. He then was called to be rector of Christ Church, London and also to be an instructor at Huron College.

In 1938 the rectory was insulated and Miss E. Cresswell once more came to the aid of the congregation, by bearing the cost of this work.

In 1939 St. Mary's Dublin was attached to St. Thomas, Seaforth and this became a two-point parish.

The years 1939 to 1945 see another World War and Canada is caught up with the events of the war. It is a most difficult time for most congregations, as the ranks of the congregation are depleted. Many of the necessary repairs have to put off due to the lack of funds.

In 1940 the Parish Hall interior was painted. In December of this same year, Thomas T. Jackson left a bequest of $1,000.00 to the Church.

In 1941 the interior of the Church was re-decorated New shingles were put on the roof of the wings of the Church while the iron roof on the main building was painted with a special preparation to preserve it Both Emily Cresswell and Margaret Jackson each left a legacy of $1 000 00 to be added to the endowment funds of the Church Then in 1942 Miss Cresswell again left a further $2000 00 Government of Canada bond for the endowment funds of the Church The Frances Fowler Memorial Fund was established with a gift of $500 00

On Christmas 1942 a beautiful Prayer Book was given for the Prayer Desk by Mr H G Merr who was the choir master at that time

In 1943 Miss Florence Cresswell gave a further gift of $1,000 00 to be added to the endowment funds of the Church Also in this year Nov 24 1943 the large Bible for the lectern was presented by Mrs Margaret E Van Egmond in memory of her husband Mr L G Van Egmond and also in memory of A G Van Egmond and his wife Isabelle Brydon

In August 1944 Rev C F L Gilbert was appointed as the new rector of St Thomas' Church Rev Gilbert came from London Ontario to take up duties here On Sunday Dec 15, 1946 a special service was held for the unveiling of the memorial window of St George which had been placed in the Church by Mr & Mrs Wm R Archibald of Tuckersmith Township It was given in commemoration of their son Arnold R Archibald who gave his life in the service of his country for our freedom and liberty Captain Frank Archibald in the presence of his family and friends and the congregation unveiled the memorial window

By 1945, the congregation had grown to 73 families with a membership of 303 persons

THE WORK STILL PROGRESSES

In 1948 Rev C F L Gilbert resigned and in Feb. 1949 Bishop Luxton appointed the Rev T Dale Jones a former Chaplain of the R C A F as the new Rector of St Thomas A complete program of restoring improving, and beautifying the Church was begun during the encumbency of Rev T Dale Jones This proved to be a much greater undertaking than was originally anticipated Rev T Dale Jones was never to complete this work because in March 1951 he was appointed Assistant to the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London Ontario In May 1951 the Rev William Alan Jones was appointed Rector and he would take up the task of completing the Restoration Program Instead of taking seven years to complete the work it was done in two years

Induction of Rev T Dale Jones

Archibald Forbes Rector s Warden of St Mary s Dublin and R G Parke Warden of St Thomas Church are seen handing the keys to the churches to the new minister while Archdeacon J H N Mills diocesan commissioner Rev E O Lancaster of Wingham Rt Rev G N Luxton Bishop of Huron and Archdeacon C W Foreman of London look on

The restoration of St Thomas' Church and Parish Hall was a story of enterprise, courage and faith. The original intention of spreading the work over seven years was mainly to facilitate the payment of this undertaking. By 1951 the Parish Hall was completely restored and re-decorated and the new Vestry was added. A new Memorial Window "I am the Light of the World" with the inscription "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours" - was installed and dedicated. It was given by the sons and daughters of William Richard Archibald and his wife Jessie Vallance Craig to their memory and for the Glory of God.

The work on the hall, with the exception of the foundation and roof, was done entirely by the men and women of the congregation. Work parties met in the hall every night for several months. The old plaster was removed from the walls and the ceiling and the plaster on the walls was replaced with wallboard. The ceiling was painted white and the walls green. The men's choir room was made into a modern kitchen. This was completely equipped by the women to better enable them to serve banquets and teas. In the spring of 1951, the men again rallied together to tear down the old vestry room. A concrete foundation was poured and a local contractor, Mr Grant Tennegan built the Vestry and choir room as well as two new washrooms. The men of the Parish decorated the interior of the Vestry and the other rooms using the same colour scheme as in the Parish Hall.

At the Annual Vestry meeting, held in 1952, the congregation unanimously agreed that the Church should be restored completely and at once, preserving as far as possible its original structure, beauty and simplicity. The financing of the project would be left in the hands of the Board of Management. The entire undertaking was placed in the hands of Mr C M Smith, a Seaforth Contractor, to whom the congregation owes a debt of gratitude for generosity of time, splendid suggestions, foresight and planning.

The building committee undertook the responsibility of the work. They too gave generously of their time, energy, insights and the finished product attests to their part and leadership in this program. Any work requires a financial backing and the congregation gave generously in support of this work.

The final touches were added to the Church on Saturday, September 13, 1952, thus ending a five month period of holding services in the Parish Hall. On Sunday, the congregation met at 7:00 p.m. for the Re-dedication of the Church led by Bishop G N Luxton. It was a happy and a joyous occasion as the congregation joined together to give thanks to Almighty God for His blessings bestowed upon the people through this Restoration Program.

THE ORGAN

One of the outstanding features of the Restoration Program was the installation of the new pipe organ. The old organ produced a very pleasing and fine quality of music and tone but it had served the congregation for some 56 years (1892-1952). The present organ was formerly owned by the Windsor Radio Station and was purchased by Mr Reid of Woodstock. He sold it to the Church for $3750.00. It is a Wurlitzer unified pipe organ, with five racks of pipes and a set of cathedral chimes. Mr Mel Willitts of Woodstock installed the organ. Mr Quentin MacLean of the C B C gave an organ recital on the evening of Sept 15 at which time Canon Reginald Appleyard, a son of the former rector Rev Canon Edward Appleyard, dedicated the organ.

The Old Organ 1895-1952

Many memorials were given to the Church and dedicated during the period of the Restoration The Cathedral lights were donated by the congregation in appreciation for the support of the Cresswell and the Jackson families The carpets in the Chancel the green paraments and the dossal curtains were donated by the Chancel Guild. The Hymn Boards were donated by Mr Gordon Wright and the Credence Table was donated by Mr E C Boswell The East Windows at the front of the Church depicting the two major Sacraments of the Church were donated by the Ladies Guild The Chancel was designed and remodelled by Mr O Roy Moore of London Ontario the Architect and the Designer who was also involved in the work of the new Huron College in London Ont Much of the panel and woodwork was executed by Mr Gordon Wright whose fine workmanship added to the beauty of the chancel

The Restoration Program was indeed a milestone in the history of St Thomas Church The congregation had every reason to be proud of their newly built church and as James Scott wrote

> For the good folk who have maintained that trim little church through many generations it is indeed their spiritual home and they wouldn't like to see it any other way

In 1957 Rev William Jones was to leave St Thomas' Church and Rev Jack James was to become the new Rector of St Thomas.

The year 1957 was important, for it marked the Centennial of the Diocese of Huron The first service began with a pilgrimage to St Thomas' Church in the city of St Thomas the first church in the area The next service was held at St Thomas' Seaforth for this area During this year St. Thomas's Church received a bequest of ten thousand dollars which was left by Florence and Emily Cresswell to be added to the Endowment Fund It was also during this year that major renovations were made to the Rectory

In May 1959 Rev Jack James was transferred to London and Rev Harry Donaldson was appointed by the Bishop to be the new rector of St Thomas' In 1959 the Anglican Church of Canada adopted the new Prayer Book which attempted to get rid of some of the out of date language and removed forever some of the phrases such as "conceived and born in sin" The priests were forever having to explain to the people many of the phrases that simply didn't mean what they said As was the case in so many of the rural areas St Thomas Church reluctantly and only gradually accepted the new Prayer Book

1961 saw the installation of the Heber John Hopkins Memorial Window "Jesus Blessing the Children"

In 1962 the Church was saddened by the loss of their long time organist Mr George Clarke who died after a brief illness The Church acquired the present piano in the Parish Hall from the estate of George Clarke Needless to say George was a man who was deeply loved by the choir and members of the congregation His many years of service did much to shape the musical and talented choirs of St Thomas Church

In 1966, the last of the memorial windows "Jesus went about healing all manner of illness" was installed The Norah Larone Memorial window was a gift of Elmer Larone and family

On May 28 1967 Rev Harry Donaldson went to Delhi concluding eight years of a most happy ministry The new rector of St Thomas' Church was Rev Stanley Sharples who came from Delhi He began his ministry in St Thomas Church on June 1, 1967 and remained until his retirement in October 1977 Rev Sharples retired and moved to Beamsville where he presently resides In 1968 St Thomas Church was aligned to St Paul's in Clinton The Rectory in Seaforth was sold and the rector took up residence in Clinton

In 1971 the church was given a gift of two thousand dollars from the estate of Miss C Holmes A further sum of $5 000 00 was received from the estate of Martha Fowler The sum of money received from these estates was to be used for the restoration of the bell tower

In August 1974 the contract was let for the tower, which was repaired and painted at a cost of $6 200 00

Rev George Youmatoff a retired clergyman living in Bayfield filled in as rector from November 1977 to May 1978 when the present rector Rev James R Broadfoot was appointed by Bishop T David B Ragg as Deacon in Charge This is the first time that a Deacon was to serve St Thomas Church and it proved to be a good experience for the congregation

The year 1980 is being marked as the 125th Anniversary of St Thomas Church Several events are being planned to mark the occasion During the week of June 1 to June 8 several services are being planned as a time of giving thanks and re-dedicating ourselves for the task that lies ahead Many of the former clergy will be invited to join with present and former members to mark the Anniversary

Ladies Guild Celebrates its 65th Anniversary November 2, 1954

From right to left: Dorothy Parke - Deanery President, Mrs. McGavin - President of St. Thomas W.A., Mrs. A.C. Calder - Diocesan President, Rev. J.H. James

THE LADIES OF THE CHURCH

The ladies of St. Thomas' Church have always played a significant role in the life of the church. Originally they had little voice and no vote in Parish matters but today this has changed. Not only are ladies members of the board, but in 1980 Mrs. Nancy Larone, as Rector's Warden, becomes the first woman warden of St. Thomas' Church.

The ladies of the Parish have always shown a great deal of enthusiasm for the work of the Church and have worked hard in support of the Church. The annual A.C.W. Fall Turkey Supper in October and the Bazaar in November are events that members of the community and the Parish look forward to with a great deal of excitement. On many occasions the ladies have provided tea and dainties for various Parish functions. On June 19, 1955, on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Ladies Guild, the ladies presented a new memorial window "The Resurrection Garden", to commemorate the faithful services of the women of the Parish. The window stands as a fitting memorial for all the ladies of the Parish, without whose support St. Thomas' Church would not be where it is today.

The present Anglican Church Women (A.C.W.) is the successor organization to the Ladies Guild and the Women's Auxiliary, which was the missionary group for the Parish. The officers of the Anglican Church Women in St. Thomas' Church are: President - Mrs. Frances Teatero, Secretary - Mrs. Joyce Lee, Treasurer - Mrs. Corrie Snowdon.

We cannot fail to mention the Altar Guild and the ladies who so diligently and faithfully attend to the care of the altar ware, paraments and the Chancel. These ladies deserve a great deal of thanks for their work.

President - Mrs. Inez Spittal, Secretary - Mrs. Corrie Snowdon

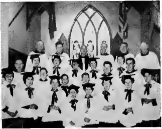
The Dedication of the Memorial Window   The Resurrection Garden

given by the Ladies Guild

Miss Dorothy Parke Ven Archdeacon F G Hardy Rev J H James

THE CHOIR

We would be amiss if we did not mention the choir of St Thomas' Church Throughout the years there has always been a group of men and women and children who have not only remained faithful to the choir but also have made a significant contribution to the worship of St Thomas Church There has always been a willing group of people who have gathered for practice on Thursday evening under the able leadership of their choirmasters The organist and choir master who had given the greatest number of years service was George Clarke There is no doubt that Mr Clarke did much to shape the music and the choirs of this Church Perhaps we might even go so far as to say that there has been no greater devotion to the life of St Thomas Church than from this group of people and they should be commended for their loyalty and faithfulness



CHOIR OF ST THOMAS CHURCH 1961

Back row
George Flewett Bob Palin Rev H Donaldson Harry Palin Bob Spittal George Clarke (organist)

Third row
Peg Coombs Mary Rowcliffe, Janet Ford Doris Adams Marion Flewett

Second row
Ted Southgate Chris Coombs Bill Boussey Ian Harvey Paul Spittal Terry Ford

First row
Ann Troutbeck Yvonne Adams Jane Cornish Mary Anne McLean Peggy Cornish
Susan Stockwell Frances Donaldson Miss Greenslade

THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Sometimes, we have not taken seriously enough the task of training the children of the Church. In fact, there have been periods in the church's history when there has not even been a Church School for the children. We however, are fortunate today to have a group of women who give of their time and talents to teach the children in the Church School.

We need to recognize the importance of training children in the Scriptures and in Anglican worship as they will one day be the future members of our Church. They must never be thought of as being separate from the Church, but in fact must be made to feel that they are a part of the Church. Thus, we make every effort to help the children feel that they are an important part of the congregation and they DO belong.

The teachers and helpers are encouraged to upgrade their own teaching skills and knowledge of the Christian faith. We should not only then encourage them in their task, but also should give them our full support. The Church School meets at the same hour as the worship service in the Church. The Church School superintendent is Mrs. Helen Southgate.

CONCLUSION

Many people have come and gone in the life of St. Thomas' Anglican Church over the years. Some of these people have left their marks in some more tangible way than others. Some people are but mere memories to the older members, but we must remember that St. Thomas' Church was built on the love and loyalty that these people had for the Church. They were people with a vision and were willing to do their part to make their vision a reality.

It cannot be denied that St Thomas' Church has had its share of difficulties down through the years Debts have always been a burden to the Parish as the Church is in a constant state of rebuilding and repairing These repairs have plagued this struggling congregation and at times the congregation has been in gratitude for certain benefactors to the Church These persons have made significant contributions down through the years, not only by their interest but also by alleviating some of the financial burden

There have been times of joy and sorrow for the people of St Thomas' times when the congregation felt that they were going nowhere and the future looked bleak But always just over the horizon new life emerged and the people became an example for others to follow by their endurance The life of the Parish did indeed have its high points and its low points But as we read in the One Hundredth Anniversary Booklet

> Now let us move forward with confidence and courage
> Grateful for our heritage Conscious of our responsibility
> in the spirit of glad surrender and in the companionship of
> our Lord and Master Jesus Christ whom we serve in the
> Church Militant in the blessed hope that we may serve
> and adore him with the Church Triumphant

This is the legacy that we inherit and if we are to truly honour St Thomas' Church in Seaforth this is the legacy we must pass on to our descendents

ROLL OF HONOUR

They heard the call and answered.

1914-1918

John Best
Rollo Cook †
J H Hodgins
Harold Deem
Clarence Garden †
Hanson George Reeves †
Frank Jackson
J Nesbit
John Wilson
Roy Cook
George Stephenson
David Watt
Garnet McBrien

Russell Best
David Colvin
William George McCauly
Thomas Edgar †
Charles Hodge
James Henry McCauly
Secord McBrien
William Pinkney
Nurse Edith Neelin
William Smith
William Hart †
William Beattie

Edward Bateman
Percy Rolph
Harry Cresswell
James Edgar
Charles Rolph †
Harry Kent
Ellis McLean
Henry Smith
Sidney Deen
John H Earle
Chester McBride
Gerald Case

1939-1945

Kenneth Adams
Edward (Ted) Southgate
Frank Archibald
William Edgar
Louis Jackson
Angus McLean
Gerald Snowdon
Jack Moore
John (Jack) Hotham
Jack Fraser
R M Southgate

Cecil Adams
Arthur Leyburn
Arnold Archibald †
Thomas Roe
John F Pinkney
George Kruse
Daniel Grummett
Nurse Mae Cardwell
Fred Jackson
George Case

Arthur Fraser
R George Parke
Harry Earle
Thomas Wilbee
Barbara Best
William (Bill) Wilbee
Earle Leyburn
James Brown
Betty Sandford
James Southgate

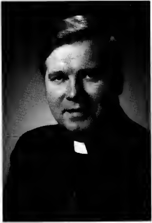
† these gave their lives in service of their country, and for our freedom and liberty

Some of those who served as Wardens of St Thomas' Anglican Church

	Rector's Warden	People's Warden
1869	T P Bull	A Strong
1900	F C G Mintz	G F Belden
1902	E A Fox	W R Counter
1905	H Bullard	I Langstroth
1907-08	G E Parke	F Holmstead
1909	F Holmstead	H Edge
1910	J M Best	H Edge
1911-12	H Edge	J M Best
1940-51	Thomas Jackson	R G Parke
1952-53	Thomas Jackson	Robert Archibald
1954-55	Thomas Jackson	John Earle
1956-58	Thomas Jackson	E C Boswell
1959	Gordon Wright	E C Boswell
1960	Gordon Wright	Norman Scoins
1961	Garnet Stockwell	Norman Scoins
1962	L Ford	G Stockwell
1963	H Palm	L Ford
1964	H Palm	W E Southgate
1965	John Oldfield	W E Southgate
1966	John Oldfield	Dave Cornish
1967-70	Howard James	Robert Dinsmore
1971	Howard James	G Snowdon
1972-73	Gordon Wright	G Snowdon
1974-78	Gordon Wright	James Snowdon
1979	Gordon Wright	Robert Palm
1980	Nancy Larone	Art Varley

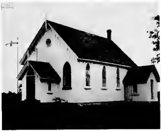
Rectors who have served the Parish of St Thomas' Anglican Church

1864-1870	Rev C C Johnston
1871-1874	Rev Reginald H Star
1874-1875	Rev W L Mills
1875-1877	Rev William Craig
1877-1879	Rev W F Campbell
1879-1880	Rev J F Pinard
1880-1883	Rev Jeffrey Hill
1883-1888	Rev J Edmonds
1888-1889	Rev T W Magahy
1889-1905	Rev J W Hodgins
1905-1912	Rev John Berry
1912-1930	Rev Thomas H Brown
1930-1932	Rev J F Meyers
1932-1937	Rev Canon Appleyard
1938-1944	Rev R F D Harford
1944-1948	Rev C F L Gilbert
1949-1951	Rev T Dale Jones
1951-1953	Rev William A Jones
1953-1959	Rev J H James
1959-1967	Rev Harry Donaldson
1967-1977	Rev Stanley Sharples
1978-	Rev James R Broadfoot



Present Rector

The Rev James R Broadfoot B A., M Div



ST. MARY'S, DUBLIN

In 1851, Robert Donkin, an Anglican living in Carronbrook (now Dublin), purchased lot 15 of Concession 1 of Hibbert Township from Avery John Stinton for the sum of £150. In 1868, he donated a part of the plot to the Anglican Church for a church site. The Anglicans then, under their rector, The Rev. H. Caulfield, set out to build a simple white frame church on the site. In these early years, the congregation was served by Canon Ephraim Patterson, who was no stranger to the congregation of St. Thomas', Seaforth. The Church was first served by the rectors of Mitchell. At a later date, the Church became part of a three-point charge, with Staffa and Hensall.

Since September 1939, it became attached to St. Thomas' Church in Seaforth. Some of the rectors of St. Mary's during the years were: Rev. H. Caulfield, Rev. Freeman Harding, Rev. William B. Evans, Rev. Pierre Deloin, Rev. H. C. Bridgman, Rev. J. W. Hodgins, Rev. Charles Mills, Rev. Gilbert, Rev. T. Dale Jones, Rev. W. A. Jones, Rev. J. H. James, Rev. H. Donaldson, and finally, Rev. Stanley Sharples.

In 1971, the congregation had dwindled to the point where it was no longer possible to keep it open. Regrettably, the Church was closed, the building was removed, and finally in 1979 the property was sold. Much of the silverware and altar ware were deposited to the care and keeping of St. Thomas' Church, where it is on display today.

It is fitting that since Robert Donkin had such an interest in St. Mary's, Dublin, that the history of this little church should end in St. Thomas' Church, where Mr. Donkin also had an interest, and in which the chancel window is dedicated to his memory.

TRINITY COLLEGE LIBRARY
3 1761 05523683 0

Old Church

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]